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April 459

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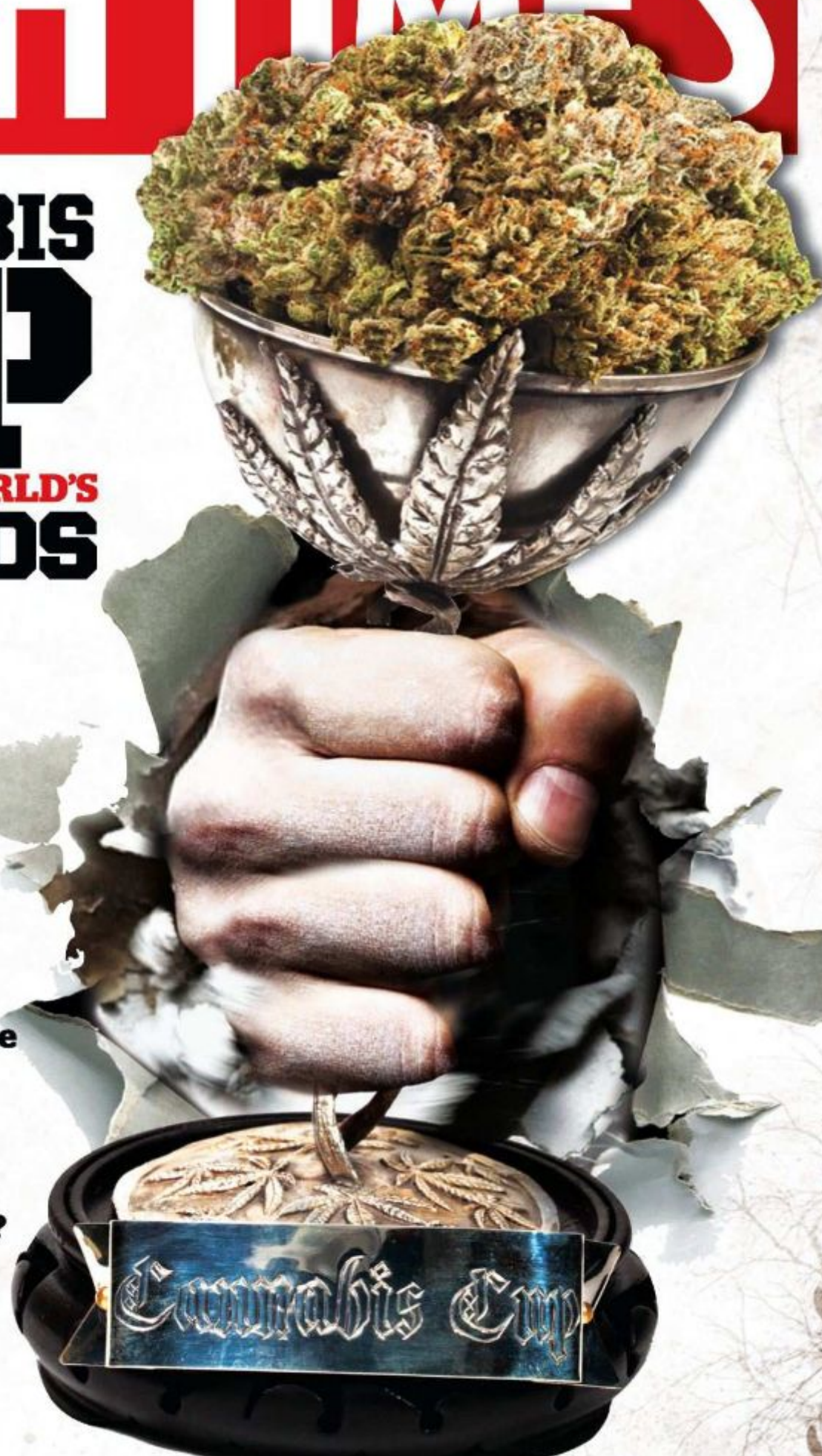
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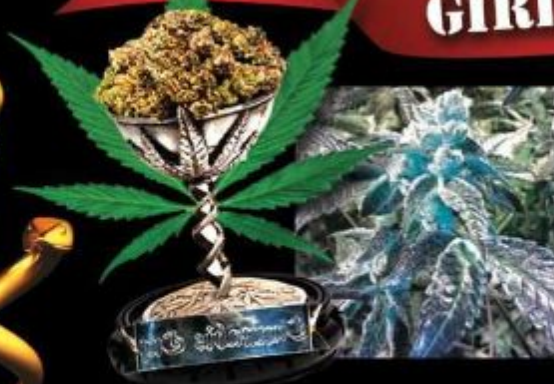


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HIGH TIMES APRIL



There was no need for the venue's fog machine that night; the audience members were enveloped in a sweet, smoky haze as the night wrapped up and they poured out onto the rainy streets.

—Burnin' it Up at the 26th Cup, page 61

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By Dan Skye

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For over a quarter-century, High Times has hosted the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. Check out all of the merriment as we cover the sights, sounds and, of course, smells of our annual bud bacchanalia.

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By Chris Parker

100 High Times Interview: Soma

Over the past 20 years, the breeder known as Soma has created championship strains like NYC Diesel, Amnesia Haze and Lavender. Learn how this American expat became an Amsterdam legend. *By Dan Skye*

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HIGH TIMES DIGITAL

Glass Artist of the Month

Born to hippie artist parents in Marin County, CA, Dustin Revere was always encouraged to follow his creative passions. He dabbled in a few different mediums—jewelry, painting and photography—but in high school, began designing and fabricating bongs out of ceramics and plastics. The year was 1993 and Grateful Dead culture was in full force. When he began attending Dead shows, he saw his first glass pipe. “I was hooked,” he says. “I got a little torch and set it up on my parents’ back deck, and started making pipes. I was obsessed, I wanted to study and learn as much about glass techniques as I could.”

In 1998, he was accepted as a traditional apprentice to an Italian master glassblower named Gianni Tosso. In following years, he studied with four more Italian masters, and then studied under several American masters as well.

By 2003, glass pipe culture was booming, but no school existed that taught pipe-making. Dustin figured, “Why not?” and opened the Revere Glass School in 2006 in Berkeley, CA.

In his own work, Dustin specializes in one-of-a-kind pipes, and murinni (colored patterns or images).

“Innovation, artistic expression, and education within the glassblowing community,” Dustin says, “is truly my life’s work.”



Dustin Revere now teaches up and coming glass artists.

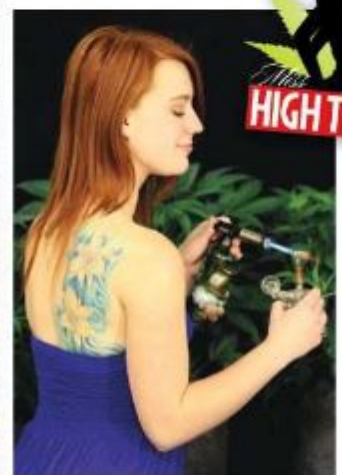


► Nico's Nuggets

He's the star of the *High Times* DVD *Grow Like A Pro*. Now cultivation editor Nico Escondido is providing grow advice in his weekly online column “Nico's Nuggets.” Get your garden up to speed!

► Archive Gems

Over the course of 40 years, hundreds of celebs and public figures have sat down with us as the subject of the *High Times* feature interview. Sharing their views on cannabis—and pretty much anything else that was on their minds—our interviews have used the power of celebrity to persuade and, ultimately, convince millions of nonbelievers that cannabis should be legal. Check out these “blasts from the past” as we post new archival interviews weekly!



Miss April 2014

NAME: **Haley**
AGE: **21**
CITY: **Sonoma County, CA**
OCCUPATION: **Extract artist, student**

To enter or rate contestants, go to misshightimes.com. You must be 18 years or older to enter.

TARA STANLEY

POT POLL

Pot on the Job

Despite pot's increasing acceptance, many of us in the cannabis community have lost jobs because of our pot use. So in this era of tolerance, how safe is your job? Amazingly, nearly a third of you seem to have it pretty good. The bad news is that half of you fear the worst. Until times get better for everyone, always exercise caution! Here's what 2,300 respondents said would happen if management found out you were a pot smoker?

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!



Nothing...31%
I'd be fired...20%
I'd be worried about being fired...30%
I'd have to share my pot...18%

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Cannabis Cup family: Ben Dronkers of Sensi Seeds, Arjan of the Green House and Soma of Soma's Sacred Seeds.

Giving Thanks

For most Americans, Thanksgiving is all about football, family and turkey. The holiday's true purpose, however, is actually a harvest celebration. It was this meaning that former *High Times* editor in chief Steve Hager had in mind when, during Thanksgiving week 26 years ago, he gathered an intimate group of herbal aficionados in Amsterdam to sample marijuana strains from different seed companies, decide which ones were the best and then honor them with awards. And that, my friends, is how the Cannabis Cup was born.

Over the next two decades, the Cup grew by leaps and bounds. Each November, thousands of stoners from all over the world made the annual pilgrimage to the (then) undisputed cannabis capital of the world to experience the freedom of buying marijuana legally, hang with the *High Times* staff and be a part of the world's greatest pot party. While our families sat around their dinner tables back home stuffing their faces with turkey and trimmings, *we* were stuffing our lungs with the sweetest smoke on the planet. For us, Thanksgiving would never be the same again.

Those of us who've attended the Cup many times now have forged relationships so deep there that we consider many of our Dutch associates and fellow Cup-goers like family. This year, we welcomed a long-lost member of that family back into the fold when we inducted into our Counterculture Hall of Fame original Cup competitor Ben Dronkers, founder of the Sensi Seed Bank—who, after a years-long absence, made a triumphant (and somewhat controversial) return to the event.

Much has changed since those early Cups. Ironically, while cannabis use has grown more accepted in the US (exemplified by Colorado's historic new legal recreational pot shops), tolerance in Holland seems to have been on the decline in recent years. After threats of a tourist ban and a few police crackdowns, the Cup expo isn't quite as excessive as it was in the old days. Gone are the live plants, leaf-blowers and hot-air balloons, the über-sized joints and showers of samples that once rained down from the stage upon the crowds. Nevertheless, the show goes on: Vendors still have lots of cool gadgets and genetics, coffeeshops and seed companies still have strains to be purveyed, and judges still arrive by the thousands from around the world—eager to sample their wares, explore the city and cast their votes.

And for that, we are very thankful.

Infamously yours,

Bobby Black

Senior Editor

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SINCE 1998

High Times has been receiving an increased amount of letters from veterans regarding the various issues they face in the US. This month's letters section is dedicated to those men and women in uniform. It is *High Times'* firm belief that a country willing to send its young servicemen and women into harm's way abroad should allow them to make up their own minds about marijuana here at home.

Don't Forget the Vets

How do we as a country swallow the hard pill that is acknowledging the shameful way we've treated our veterans? We all agree on the right to free speech (look at the antics of the Westboro Baptist Church), yet we treat the defenders of that right like garbage. Soldiers have to deal with the traumas of war, but we come home only to be spat upon, ostracized, forgotten or used as political chess pieces. These young men and women make sacrifice after sacrifice, all for a belief. That belief is in the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and freedom. They believe so much that they are willing to bleed and die for something intangible. The Marines even went so far as to create Toys for Tots so that every year they can help children enjoy Christmas, even if they themselves can't. Most people don't know this, but the truth is that a retired Marine realized that many children wouldn't receive even a single toy for Christmas, so he stepped up and created Toys for Tots. To date, we now have to use three cargo planes to make all the deliveries. Yes, even Santa needs some help, and the Marines stepped up. Indonesia, Haiti, the Philippines—after natural disasters, the United States military has been the first with boots on the ground to help people. But when we get home, we are forgotten. Why? That is the question I ask every day, so I beg you with tears in my eyes, please don't forget us.

J. Allen

Legalize Marijuana in the Military

I am writing to suggest a story for your magazine. I propose an article about legalizing marijuana in the military.

Pushing for legalization in the armed forces would have many benefits. One of the most talked-about points in the military today is alcohol, which contributes to violence, DUIs and sexual assault. Much time is spent on training to prevent sexual assault, but I'm sure that you could find statistics about how many times sexual assault happens when alcohol is involved. If military members



Who are we to deny people who get PTSD serving their country the right to use a perfectly safe medicine?

were allowed to partake in smoking pot, maybe alcohol use and its consequences would diminish.

Marijuana has many uses today. Many people use it as a pain reliever. I know firsthand how sore a member of the military can be every single day. If marijuana use were made legal, people wouldn't have to turn to prescription narcotics or alcohol to ease their pain.

Research has shown that marijuana can be used in cases of PTSD. Who are we to deny people who get PTSD serving their country the right to use a perfectly safe medicine? These veterans deserve to have access to any medicine they want.

A good question to ask is: How much money does the government spend on drug testing? How many people's careers have been ended for smoking marijuana? Would omitting marijuana in drug screenings save money? How much money does military insurance (TRICARE) spend on other prescription drugs? Could money be saved by offering marijuana as medicine instead?

A strong case can be made that people in the military deserve access to the medicine they find most effective, and that recreational marijuana is safer than recreational alcohol. If people can agree

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that marijuana in the armed forces is in fact a good idea, maybe that could help the case with federal legalization.

Thank you for taking the time to read what I have written. Good luck, and I hope to see an article about marijuana in the military soon.

Garrett

Painting, Pot and PTSD

My name is Amos Gregory and I am a US military veteran and artist. I have created a project called the San Francisco Veterans Mural Project, an art project in which we (US military veterans) paint our own stories in the form of murals which cover an entire block of eight buildings along a street in San Francisco. Since the project has started we have painted dozens of murals depicting the true reality and trauma of war and the military experience. We have received international recognition of our work and many would consider the art political in nature.

Myself and many of the hundreds of veterans who have painted up on the walls of this project use medicinal marijuana as a means to help alleviate and control the devastating effects of such ailments as PTSD, TBI (traumatic brain injury) and the host of physical ailments that we suffer from as a group.

We are now in the process of painting a very large mural (600 feet) that raises awareness around the use of medicinal marijuana and military veterans, as well as the over-prescription of anti-psychotics that the Dept. of Veterans Affairs pushes upon us.

Amos Gregory

Veterans Growing for Veterans

Currently, I'm about to become a licensed producer in Canada under the new MMPR (Marijuana for Medical Purpose Regulations). I am a veteran with six deployments—kicked out last year because I have PTSD and use marijuana to treat my illness. This led to my passion, which is to help fellow veterans get the medication they deserve, and we have many initiatives in place that may pique your interest.

Fabian D. Henry
President

Marijuana For Trauma, Inc.

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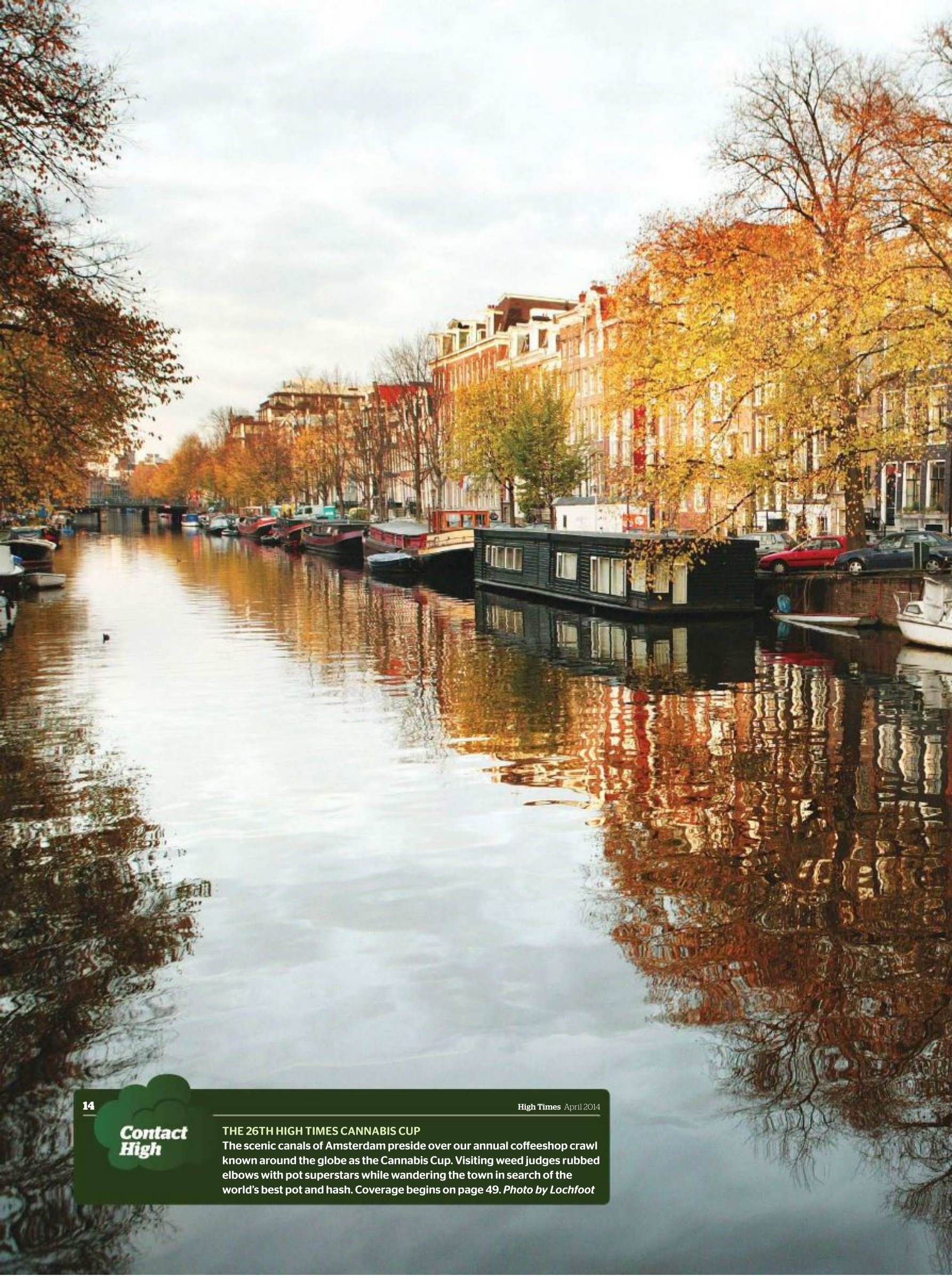


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THE 26TH HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP

The scenic canals of Amsterdam preside over our annual coffeeshop crawl known around the globe as the Cannabis Cup. Visiting weed judges rubbed elbows with pot superstars while wandering the town in search of the world's best pot and hash. Coverage begins on page 49. *Photo by Lochfoot*



**Contact
High**

CANADA GROWS UP Growing big requires discipline, hard work and attention to detail. Canadian cultivation correspondent Erik Biksa goes inside a federally licensed medical marijuana production facility to investigate and reveal the proper techniques needed for huge harvests. *Photo by Erik Biksa*







WELCOME TO CULTIVATION CLINIC Take a look at this beautiful close-up of seeds popping through their resin-laden calyxes. With any luck, they will all one day grow to be hearty plants. Seeds are the subject of the very first installment of Nico Escondido's new column "Cultivation Clinic" on page 107. Each month Nico will examine an issue that concerns growers, and pick a Strain of the Month. Stay tuned! *Photo by Freebie*





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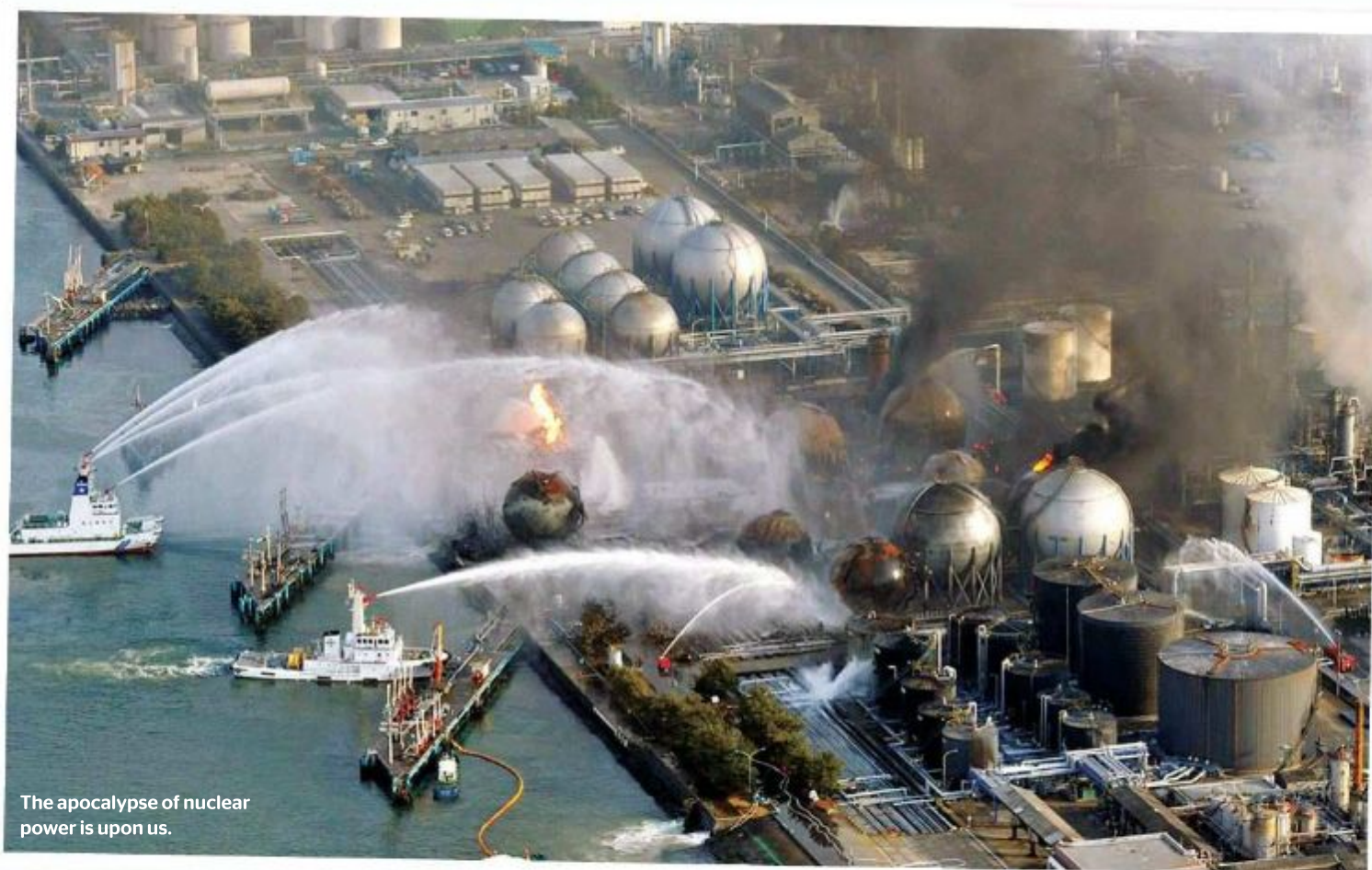
This rapper loves Blue Dream and strippers. p.29



Food

Crunchy Marijuana-nuts

Get nutty with these ganja delights! p.36



The apocalypse of nuclear power is upon us.

Fukushima and the Future

Perhaps at no time in human history has it been more crucial to get involved and battle corrupt corporate interests—the catalysts of our own self-annihilation. *By Kent Lebsack*

Contaminated soil, undrinkable water, birth defects in both animals and humans: This is what the people of Japan can expect from their inexplicable use of nuclear power—“inexplicable” in that Japan is the only country to have ever been subjected to uranium’s use as a weapon of mass destruction. Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami sums it up best: “This time no one dropped a bomb on us We set the stage, we committed the crime with our own hands, we are destroying our own lands.”

What the anti-nuke movement often misses in its efforts to stop the catastrophic effects of nuclear *anything* is

that it begins with uranium mining—a process that is horribly dangerous to the Earth, the water and the ability of future generations to survive. Stop uranium mining and we stop the issues of nuclear waste and nuclear meltdowns like those seen at Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Despite changing claims by corporate scientists and governments, Japan is now experiencing uncontrolled radioactive discharges at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant following the events of March 11, 2011. Chernobyl was a picnic compared to what’s happening there. Chernobyl had one reactor, and it didn’t sit on a beach 2,500 feet from the largest body of water

on Earth. Fukushima involves *four* reactors, three of which have melted down into the bedrock. Experts from two Japanese universities have tested the radiation levels and found that the plant, with its 4,400 tons of nuclear fuel rods, “greatly dwarfs the total size of radiation sources at Chernobyl.”

Obviously, the intentional and unintentional release of highly contaminated water from Fukushima’s core into the Pacific Ocean is a wide-open, man-made door to the “process of global radioactive contamination,” says Michel Chossudovsky, the founder of Canada’s Center for Research on Globalization.

« Radioactive rainwater has been recorded up and down the west coast of North America, California in particular. Once contamination reaches any body of water—especially one as significant as the Earth’s oceans—the process of getting into the food chain is a simple one.

The same goes for cannabis. North America’s west coast represents the front lines in the Fukushima “invasion.” Will we always be able to grow pot in California soil with California rain? The same question applies to indoor gardens, since using contaminated water in hydroponic cultivation is no guarantee of safety.

As early as 2011, only weeks after the disaster, fish caught off the California coast contained elements of nasty radioactive materials—and though the test sample wasn’t large, every one of the fish tested was dosed with contaminants. Interestingly, the tested fish were all born *before* the disaster, meaning their exposure was limited. One of the study’s experts stated that fish swimming across the Pacific Ocean ever since will have “considerably more radioactivity” and could result in a serious “public health hazard.”

He’s only discussing the present. Imagine ten, fifteen or twenty years from now: These doses of alpha-, beta- and gamma-radiation emitters easily set up shop in algae, fish, grass, cattle and—oh,

Recent reports indicate that a wealth of new radioactive materials has been spewed into the atmosphere from Fukushima, spreading globally.

yeah—human beings.

Then there’s contamination from the nuclear cloud. For months now, “steam” has been observed erupting from the top of one of the reactors. Tepco, the corporation most directly responsible for this catastrophe, can’t explain this steam or what it contains. (Why? Because the company’s crane is malfunctioning!) But recent reports indicate that a wealth of new radioactive materials has been spewed into the atmosphere from Fukushima, spreading globally.

Indigenous peoples around the world have always been on the front lines of environmental disasters. Indigenous lands are the last ones containing significant untouched concentrations of the most prized resources on Earth—and corporations and governments will do anything to get at them. Repeatedly, indigenous leaders have warned that the Earth is not a resource for exploitation. Arvol Looking Horse is the 19th-generation pipe carrier of all the bands of the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota nations

in North America. For Chief Looking Horse, the events at Fukushima—and the generally disastrous treatment of the planet spurred by corporate greed—is not surprising. At a recent gathering at the United Nations, he put the challenge in stark terms:

“You must decide. You can’t avoid it. Each of us is put here in this time and this place to personally decide the future of humankind. Know that you yourself are essential to this world. Believe that! Understand both the blessing and the burden of that. You yourself are desperately needed to save the soul of this world. Did you think you were put here for something less?”

Fukushima is more just than a warning—it’s our future if this madness continues. The real weapons of mass destruction are being promoted by our national, state and even local governments, and it’s our responsibility to stop them. If we can’t drink the water or eat the food—or smoke the pot, for that matter—will any of the other issues really matter? 🌿

HIGH FIVE

The God Squad

Many enlightened ministers have paid the price for having faith in marijuana. *By Mark Miller*



Bishop Edward Turner
The bishop may have lost a lucrative gig due to his cannabis connection. Compensated with a six-figure income by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office to oversee the department’s Multi-Faith Clergy Council, Turner was relieved of his duties in November after it was revealed that property he owned in LA housed the Manchester Caregivers dispensary.



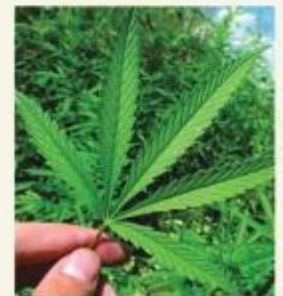
Pastor Erik Johansson
The ordained minister, who preached at Prospect Ministries in Warwick, RI, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison in 2012 for cultivating 183 pot plants—inside his church. (Though Johansson is a state-licensed caregiver, Rhode Island has a 24-plant limit.) Undaunted, Johansson applied to open up a dispensary, but was rejected by state officials.



Reverend Richard Arko
Arko, a Catholic priest, was busted in January 2004 for growing 35 plants in his rectory in Barberton, OH. Another person living there was popped for selling joints rolled from Arko’s pot. The priest pled guilty in April and received a six-month sentence. Arko was unrepentant in court, calling for legalization and advocating medical pot.



Pastor Alvin “Nicky” Davis
Davis and two others were indicted in federal court in 2009 for growing 394 plants on a property owned by Davis in Marion, KY. A well-known pastor in nearby Webster County, Davis’s arrest shocked the community. He pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in federal prison and three years’ supervised release.



Father Cyril Papudov
The Bulgarian priest made news worldwide by refusing to stop growing marijuana in his backyard in the mountain village of Kladentsi. After being busted in 2008 for the seventh time—at least—the 65-year-old Papudov argued that his crop was naturally seeded and not deliberately cultivated. He also stated that the plants were “God’s gift of nature.”

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The O'Reilly Non-Factor

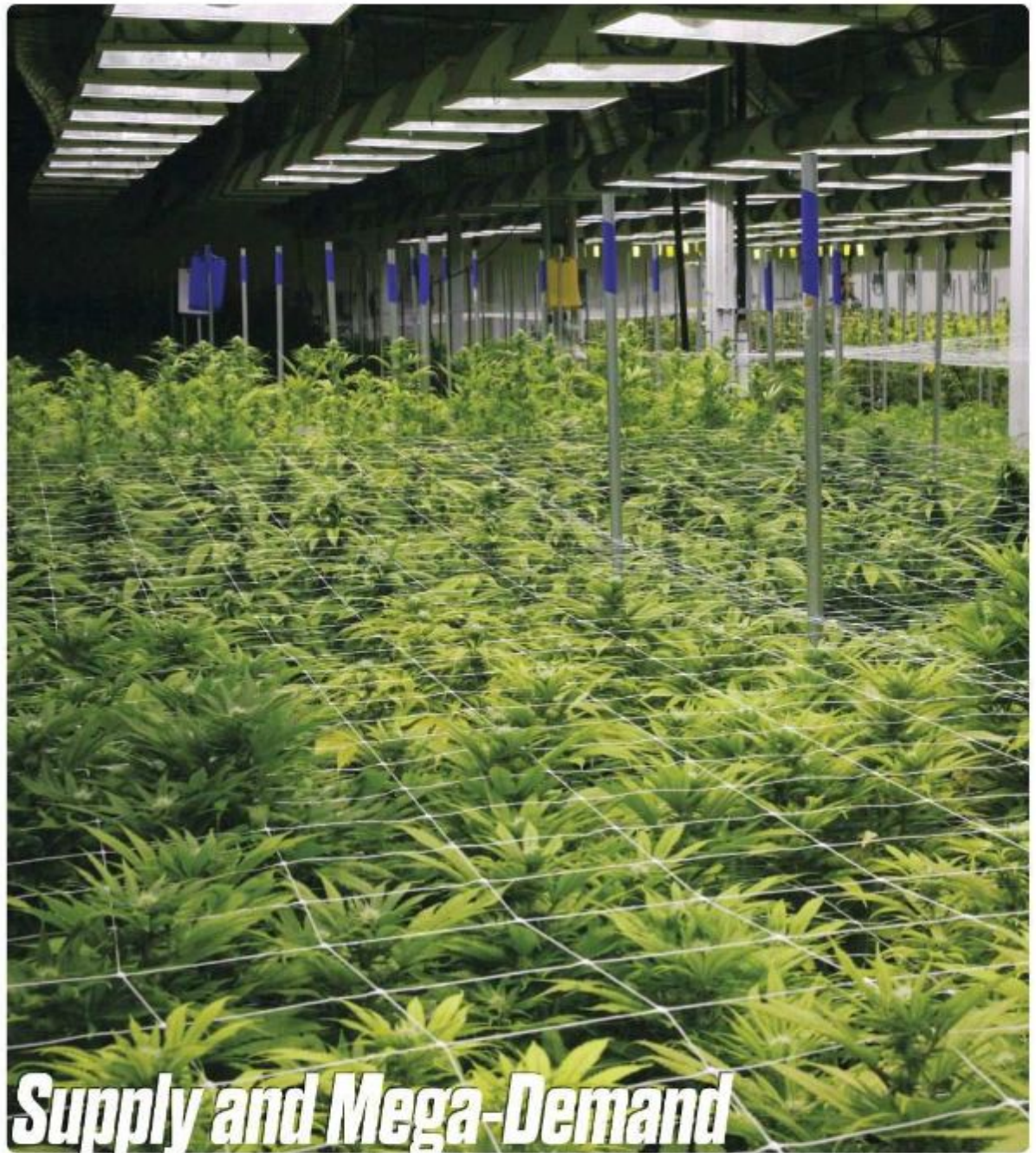
It's staggering that members of the news media can talk so authoritatively about issues they know nothing about. Take Bill O'Reilly. In December, on his FOX News program *The O'Reilly Factor*, Shril Bill expressed outrage over the *Denver Post's* November hiring of Ricardo Baca as its new marijuana editor, specifically Baca's role as a "cannabis critic."

He spewed: "They're hiring a critic who is going to have to ingest marijuana and tell everybody what's the best intoxicant to use ... if you have teenagers, do you want them to read where the best pot is in the state?"

He continued: "They're going to tell you what the best bud is... where to buy it, how to prune it, how to roll it. This is promoting the use of an intoxicant by the *Denver Post!*"

Newsflash, Bill: You don't have to "prune" bud you purchase at a store. Further showcasing his ignorance, O'Reilly suggested: "Why don't you just set it up like, 'Here's the bar in Denver where you can get the cheapest chasers and the most gin for your money?'"

You mean, like the industry is already doing?



Supply and Mega-Demand

As the new year kicked off, Colorado "adult use" centers opened for business and saw long lines of consumers eager to purchase recreational pot. So where's it all come from? From huge grow ops like this one operated by Patients Choice, one of the state's leading canna-businesses. Enormous growrooms like this are essential to fuel the new cannabis economy.

Everything Old is New Again

The Prohibition era, which lasted from 1920 to 1933 (while cannabis remained legal), was a 14-year mistake that led to the rise of murderous, organized crime. Now, 80 years later, one of the primary architects of Prohibition—the Woman's Christian Temperance Union—is reinventing itself in the 21st century, with marijuana as its target.

The Portland, ME chapter of the WCTU, led by President

Janet Perkins and her husband, Rev. David Perkins, is opposing the legalization of recreational pot and will focus on curbing cannabis in Portland. They're a little late. Sixty-seven percent of Portland voters approved a ballot initiative in November permitting adults over the age of 21 to legally possess up to two-and-a-half ounces.

Back in the day, if a liquor store proprietor refused to close his doors, the WCTU would smash booze bottles in protest. However, the kinder, gentler WCTU won't be breaking

bongs. Instead, it will spread trite propaganda decrying the "ill effects" of pot and claiming weed is a "gateway" to harder drugs, as Janet and Rev. Perkins told the AP.

Not to worry. The WCTU has a current nationwide membership of over 4,000, hardly equal to the millions on our side.

Still, not everything's rosy. Portland police announced on December 6—the day the new law went into effect—they will not honor the recreational pot measure, as it remains illegal under state law.



Washington Growing Pains

In the state of Washington, it's illegal for recreational users to grow. I-502, the successful ballot initiative that legalized recreational marijuana in 2012, forbids residential ganja gardening and only permits purchase of pot from licensed retailers. But medical marijuana gardeners may soon have no such restrictions, even after legal weed shops open for business in 2014.

In December, the state Liquor Control Board proposed recommending to state legislators that qualified patients and their caregivers be allowed to cultivate up to six plants—three flowering and three non-flowering. Previously, both the LCB and the state's Health and Revenue departments, tried to outlaw medical pot cultivation in private homes, despite the fact medicinal cannabis has been legal in Washington since 1998.

Still, Washington patients have misgivings. The LCB is proposing a statewide patient registry, which some fear could be used for law enforcement raids and federal prosecution. Board members also left a proposed 25 percent tax on medical marijuana in place.

Kansas City Cheeba

Newly released statistics from the Kansas City, MO Police Department indicate that the amount of cannabis confiscated by KC cops in 2013 increased by a joint-dropping 4000 percent from the previous year, for a total of approximately 850,000 pounds. The department attributed much of the increase to two gigantic outdoor fields of low-grade "ditchweed," which they were directed to by passer-bys in August. (Ditchweed is actually the

progeny of long-ago hemp crops which contain, almost without exception, infinitesimal amounts of THC.) KCPD Sgt. Chris Ceseña told the Kansas City Star the proliferation of pot in 2013 also includes high-quality cannabis being imported into town from the West Coast and states that have legalized medical marijuana.

Kansas City prices make the risk worth it; a pound of kind bud can fetch \$5,000 to \$7,000, as opposed to Mexican weed that runs for \$700 a pound tops.

You Not Crazy!

Medicinal cannabis has already been clinically demonstrated as effective in treating some mental health afflictions. But for the past decade, advocates have been fighting the pernicious stigma that pot is a cause for the onset of schizophrenia. New research conducted by Harvard Medical School and the VA Boston Healthcare system identifies genetics—not ganja—as the chief cause of schizophrenia. Investigators examined 282 subjects, as well as the histories of cannabis use and schizophrenia/other mental disorders of over 4,000 relatives of the participants. Researchers concluded: "The results of the current study suggest that having an increased familial morbid risk for schizophrenia may be the underlying basis for schizophrenia in cannabis users and not cannabis use by itself."



One more pot myth debunked.

Uruguay Under Fire

Uruguay's landmark national legalization of the production and sale of marijuana in December was immediately denounced by the biggest obstacle to global ganja decriminalization—the International Narcotics Control Board. The Austria-based INCB is the body of the United Nations administering international drug treaties, including the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which outlawed pot worldwide—with the exception of medical/scientific research—and includes

Uruguay as a party. The official INCB response read: "Uruguay is breaking the international conventions on drug control with the cannabis legislation approved by its congress."

INCB President Raymond Yans expressed surprise that Uruguay legislators "knowingly decided to break the universally agreed and internationally endorsed legal provisions of the treaty."

He justified the INCB position by claiming Uruguay lawmakers ignored scientific evidence on the health risks of marijuana. He also derided the notion legal pot

reduces black-market crime as "unsubstantiated assumptions." Just so there was no doubt, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime officially announced its agreement with the INCB position later that day.

While the INCB statement urges the South American nation "to engage with the board with a view to ensure that Uruguay continues to respect and implement the treaties to which it is a party," there was no indication whether or not the INCB/UN is planning any specific action against Uruguay for legalizing weed.



The Bongher Sister

Susan Sarandon, one of Hollywood's top stars since the 70s, recently revealed on the Bravo talk show *Watch What Happens Live* that she prefers to be baked when attending one of Tinseltown's ubiquitous awards shows. *Watch* host Andy Cohen asked Sarandon point-blank: "Name one major Hollywood event that you showed up to ... stoned?"

The *Thelma and Louise* heroine laughed: "Only one? I would say ... almost all, except the Oscars."

Makes sense. The only way to get through awards shows—which commonly stretch 30 minutes of entertainment into three hours—is to be high.

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Citizen's groups are challenging the narco lords

Narco-Terrorism in Michoacán

Nearly half a million people were left without electricity for 15 hours after 18 electrical substations were blown up October 27 in a wave of coordinated attacks across Mexico's west-central state of Michoacán, the latest battleground in the country's relentless cartel wars. Six gasoline stations were also burned down near Morelia, the state capital, in what authorities said was a terror campaign by the Knights Templar cartel. Governor Fausto Vallejo Figueroa said the violence had been set off by the Jalisco Cartel—based in the neighboring state of that name—seeking to “seize territory” controlled by the Knights Templar in Michoacán, and he warned of a “great massacre” (*matazón*).

That same day, at least five people were killed in a gun battle at the city hall in Apatzingán, one of the state's principal towns. The shoot-out seems to have been between a local narco gang and the town's “community police”—one of several citizen self-defense patrols that have emerged around the state in response to the escalating violence. Leaders of the local “community police” force put the death toll at 13 and said that nearly all were part of the criminal gang.



A mysterious illness afflicts pot farmers in Albania.

Mystery Illness Strikes Albanian Cannabis Harvesters

Okay, no pun intended, but this one doesn't pass the smell test. Reuters all too credulously reported on November 1 that, according to doctors in Albania, hundreds of people have fallen ill harvesting cannabis. The news agency quoted an official at a hospital in the southern city of Gjirokastër saying that since June of last year, some 700 people have sought treatment for the effects of planting, harvesting, pressing and packing the crop. The complaints included vomiting, stomach pain, irregular heartbeat and high blood pressure.

How much sense does this make? Very little, and it's pretty alarming that Reuters is taking these claims at face value. First, no one comes into contact with any amount of THC at all by “planting” cannabis, and outdoor crops in Europe would have been getting sticky with THC-laden resin only since September—not June. On the other hand, pesticide exposure certainly does cause nausea and vomiting, and recent research has also linked it to high blood pressure. Yet the Reuters account doesn't mention pesticides once.

The criminal outfits that control cultivation in the Albanian municipality of Lazarat appear to be exploiting the usual suspects in their pesticide-happy grow ops. Some 2,000 poor migrant workers, including many Roma (“Gypsies”), have set up a camp near town to seek employment in the cannabis fields, where, we are told, “producers pay eight euros per 10 kilos of the processed drug.”

Michoacán Mayor Murdered by Knights Templar?

Mexico has been shocked by the murder of Ygnacio López Mendoza, the mayor of Santa Ana Maya in Michoacán, who was found dead in his car in neighboring Guanajuato state on November 7. The mayor had just made national news by conducting a hunger strike outside the Senate building in Mexico City for 18 days, demanding more money for his town because of the 10 percent cut being extorted by the Knights Templar narco gang from all municipal spending. Authorities initially said that his

death was due to a traffic accident, but that claim evaporated when the autopsy report indicated “asphyxia secondary to neck trauma”—i.e., strangulation. Pressed for details, the Guanajuato Prosecutor General's Office, which conducted the autopsy, admitted that López Mendoza had been tortured before being killed. During his hunger strike, López Mendoza told the news site Global Post that he knew he might be killed at any time. “We are on the knife's edge,” he said. “I can be talking with you here today and in a few weeks you could be reading my death notice.”

Peru: “Narco-Terrorist” Busted, Narco-Politician Exposed

On October 23, National Police in Lima, Peru, apprehended an accused commander of one of the surviving factions of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla movement. The Interior Ministry named the detained man as Rolando Pantoja Quispe and said he was under the command of Florindo Eleuterio Flores Hala, a.k.a. “Comrade Artemio”—the notorious Sendero commander who was captured last year and condemned to life in prison. The ministry asserted that Pantoja



“Comrade Artemio”

Quispe controlled cocaine trafficking in the Yanajanca Valley and hailed the arrest as a further blow against Artemio's crippled network.

Sendero Luminoso in Bolivia?

On October 19, a patrol of Bolivia's Joint Task Force, which coordinates the National Police and army troops in coca-eradication missions, was ambushed by unknown gunmen at Miraflores pueblo in the coca-growing Yungas region, sparking a gun battle that left four people dead—three troops and a medic. Up to 30 people were also injured, but all of the assailants seem to have escaped. Jorge Pérez, a vice-minister in the Bolivian government, said the attack was “planned by people related to the narco traffic,” adding that the partially buried remnants of a cocaine lab had been found nearby. Days later, Leopoldo Ramos, the public prosecutor appointed to investigate the case, said that “by the form of execution ... it is probable that those who attacked in Miraflores are persons trained by Sendero Luminoso.” 🌿

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.

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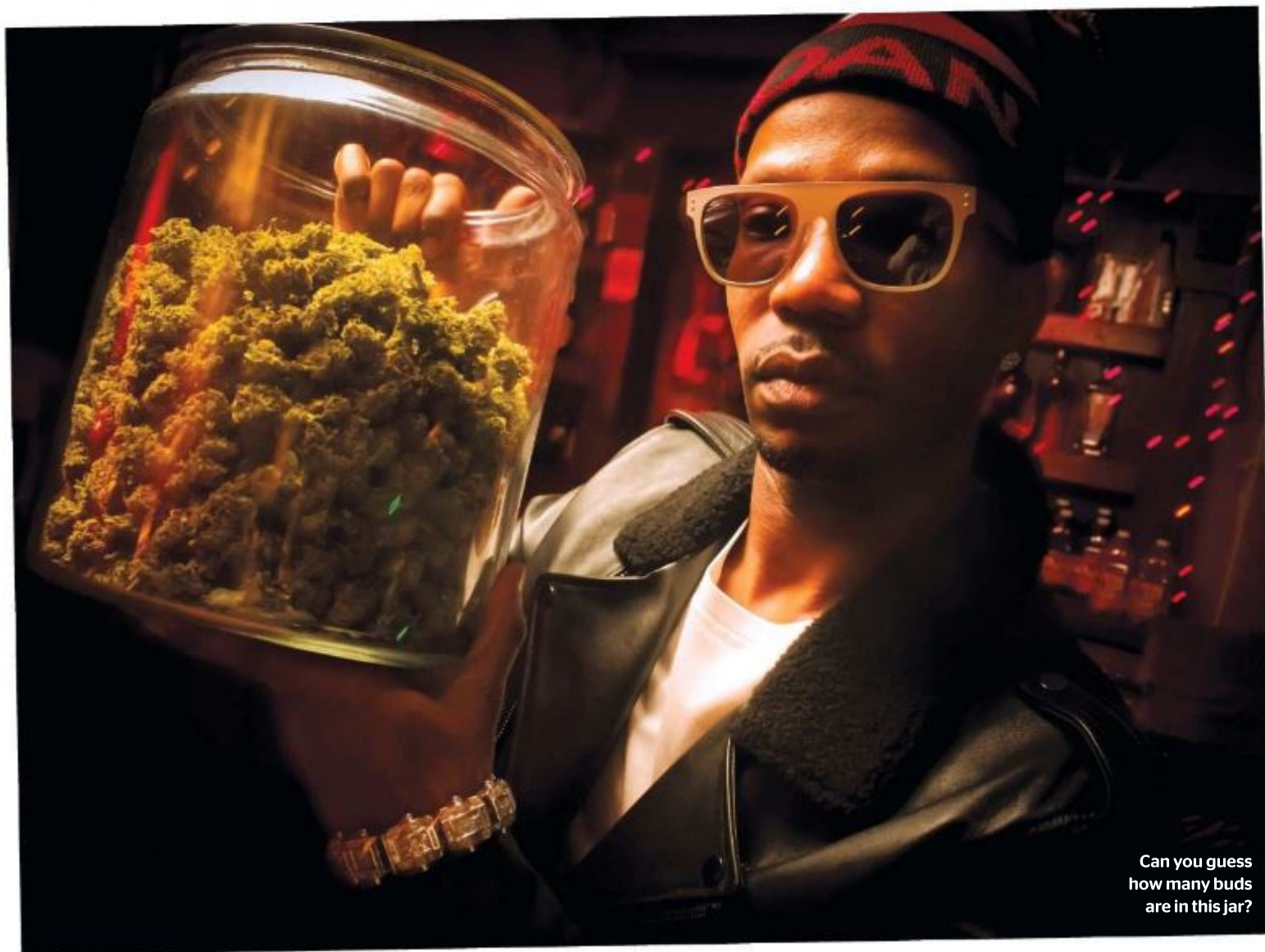
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Can you guess how many buds are in this jar?

Business Before Pleasure

Talking strippers and strains with Juicy J. *By J. Bennett*

“You like strippers?” I got some coming.” The statement hangs in the air for a three-count before Juicy J breaks into a laugh. “Naw, naw—I’m just playin’.” He almost had us, though. Since the release of his 2012 hit “Bandz a Make Her Dance”—featuring Lil Wayne and 2 Chainz (and porn star Alexis Texas in the video)—Juicy J’s name has become almost synonymous with the strip club.

But there will be no lap dances tonight. Instead, we’re at a photography studio in downtown Los Angeles with Juicy’s homie Marvin and a pound of weed. Which

happens to be the *other* thing Juicy is known for. From early joints like “Roll Me Up Some Weed,” “Let’s Get High” and “Fiyayaya Weed” (the last two from 2009’s *Hustle Til I Die*) to the smoked-out tour-bus clip for 2012’s “Know Better”—featuring longtime collaborator and business partner Wiz Khalifa—Juicy’s drug of choice has never been in question.

In that sense, “Bandz a Make Her Dance,” the lead single from Juicy’s third and latest solo album, *Stay Trippy*, combines two of the Memphis-bred rapper’s favorite activities. “When I

wrote that song, I was picturing myself in a strip club,” he offers. “It took me back to the late ’90s, when I was smoking weed in this strip club called Jazzy T’s in Atlanta. We were smoking blunts, some Chocolate Thai, and I was fucked up. They gave me the VIP area, and I had maybe six or seven girls doing crazy shit. We had a lot of fun.”

Juicy won’t say exactly how much fun he may or may not have had on the set of the video for Mike WiLL Made It’s “23,” the chart-climbing single he recently featured on along with Wiz Khalifa and the twerking, tongue-wagging

pop star Miley Cyrus. “Did I smoke weed with Miley? Ask her!” Juicy replies. “I’m the type a’ person, I don’t like to put nobody out there like that. You gotta ask her.”

He makes no secret of his favorite strain, though: Just check the title of his 2011 mixtape, *Blue Dream & Lean*. “I know it’s not the craziest strain in the world, but at the time I was making my mixtapes, Blue Dream was all I was smoking,” he explains. “I tried all different kinds out here [in California]—Master P, OG, all kinds a’ shit—but the Blue Dream kept me up and gave me motivation, so I kept

« with it. I smoke lots and lots a' Blue Dream, with a little bit of lean to wash it down with, you dig? Sometimes I'd work on a verse for like two days straight just to make sure it was right. I was so high all the time that I just kept wanting to make it better.”

Did the weed actually help? “Fuck, yeah,” he enthuses. “I had so much stress on my mind. I mean, I'm single—no kids, so I don't have no baby-mama drama—but still I got problems. I got people calling my phone every fucking day for money. *Every fucking day*. Even today. I don't mind helpin' my people out, but I get worried about it. And then I have the normal day-to-day stress that everybody has. So I'd just smoke that Blue Dream, and it would take me away from that so I could focus on my music.”

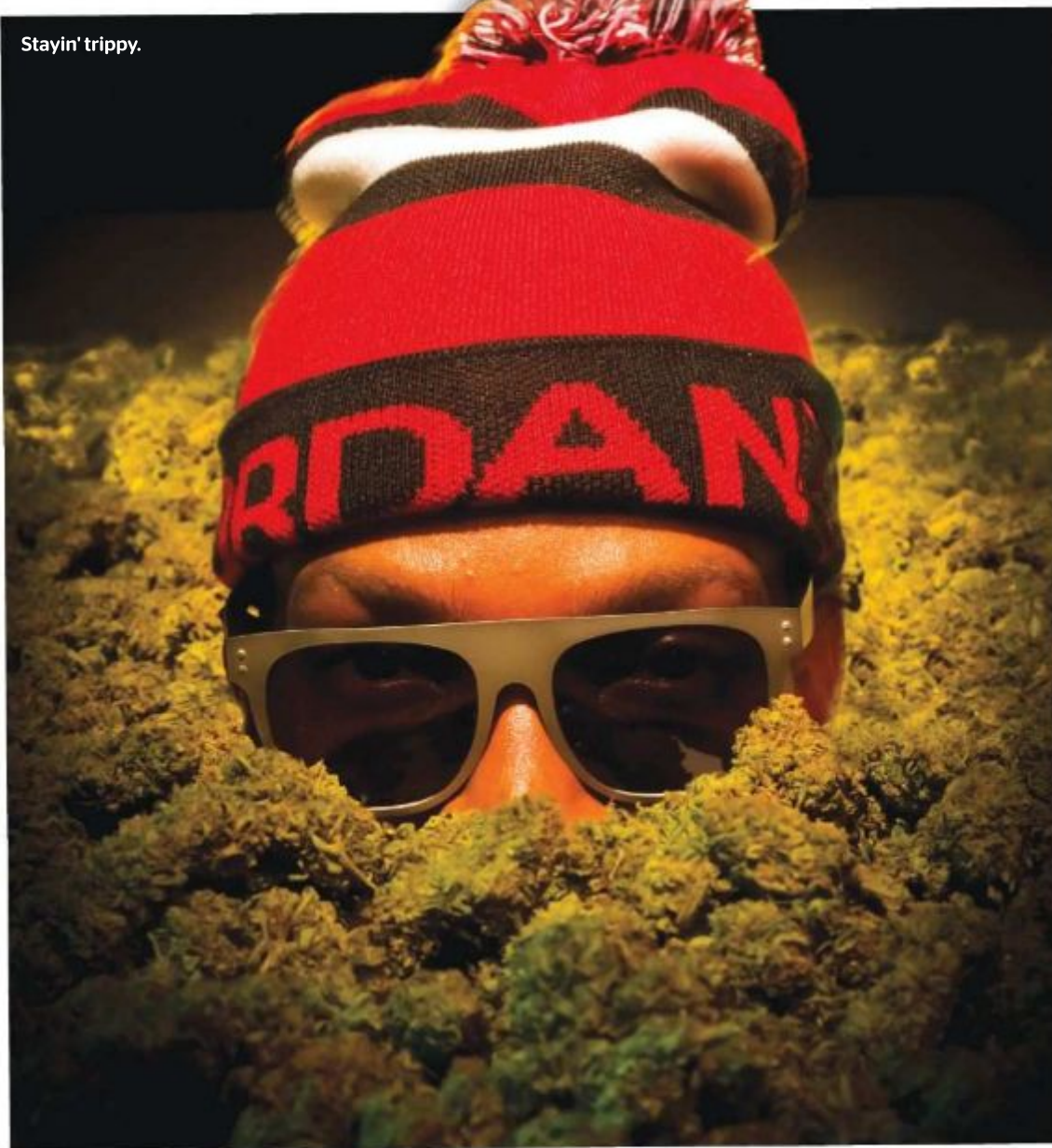
The first time Juicy got high, he was 18 or 19. “I was with some homies from Memphis,” he recalls. “It was just blunt after blunt after blunt. Next thing I know, I was high as fuck. Everything was funny. I just remember laughing and laughing.”

Back then, Juicy was a member of Three 6 Mafia, the superstar rap group that would go on to sell millions of records and even win an Oscar for Best Original Song for their 2005 track “It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp,” which was featured in the critically acclaimed film *Hustle & Flow*. Contrary to comments you may have read on the Interweb, Juicy was not high when he and the rest of his crew went onstage to accept the award. “Hell, no—I was sober as fuck!” he exclaims. “You gotta understand, that was so big for me, I would've been scared if I got high. I would've felt like I fucked up. So I was sober. I was sober as a sober cat, if there is such a thing. I was super-sober.”

Watch the full interview at hightimes.com/juicyj



Stayin' trippy.



“Did I smoke weed with Miley? Ask her!”

Matter of fact, that's one thing Juicy would like to stress: He may get higher than Ziggy Marley at Reggae Sunsplash, but he takes care of business first. “You can get high, but you gotta stay focused on your work. A lotta motherfuckers don't understand that. I'm busy. I do my taxes. My mom got a paid-for house, two paid-for Benzes, my family's eating; I make sure my team is good. I smoke some weed, I get fucked up, but I'm in the studio working. Nine times out of ten, I don't smoke before a show because I want the shit to be right. I mean, I know my fans

like to see me smoke weed, but I don't think they wanna see me onstage passed out or some shit. At the end of the day, my fans are watching, my mom is watching—so I'm a businessman first. A high businessman.”

We have to admit, we're impressed with his acumen. Musicians aren't exactly famous for being on time, and yet Juicy arrived for this interview a half-hour before we did. “Now remember—I'm

super-rich,” he says with a laugh. “I'm bragging now, but I'm rich. I got an Academy Award. I've been doing this for over 15 years. But I'm here before *you*.”

Did we mention we're impressed? “You should be!” Juicy laughs. “And I'm cool as fuck. I ain't cocky with it. That's why I'm still here. I like music. People don't understand that. They think I just be high all the time. I be high, but I be workin'” 🌿



Space Case

As much as Juicy loves his weed, he's cautious when it comes to edibles. “I've had cookies, brownies ... that shit'll keep you in space for hours and hours,” he ventures. “I did some edibles once, and I was high for like two days, dawg. I was seeing shit.”

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Good is the first album I really made in Ibiza."

The work is impressively sunny and chilled-out, a mood he credits in part to space cakes, a specialty of his wife, Amanda. The pleasure they offer is practical, he says: "It's nice to have a little bit when you're doing a mix, because if something sounds a little off, I can take a break and have a green tea and a bit of space cake, go outside, look at the stars. Your perceptions and channels open up. And when I come back, that bit of THC takes

me into that altered state where I can really lock into the mix and let everything else fall away."

Feelin' Good, packed with such loose-limbed thumpers as "Luna 2" and "Tapestry," proves that the strategy is working for him. "It's about these magic moments," Evelyn says. "I was thinking back to moments in my life when I was feeling good. And as I was thinking about them, I realized I *was* feeling good. It was only a thought away."

He laughs again as we examine the integrity and style of the joints that Ranking rolled. "Everyone has at least one good memory, you know what I mean? And it's available all the time." Creating those memories on records and onstage, he says, "is the mission. We all deserve to feel good." ✨

Good Vibrations

Nightmares on Wax and the pursuit of pleasure. *By Jesse Dorris*

"It's your sovereign right to feel good," says George Evelyn, the mastermind behind the legendary downtempo beatheads Nightmares on Wax. The argument he's making, upright on a soft sofa backstage before a show in New York City, isn't just a political one. Though his vocal collaborator Ricky Ranking has just rolled two of the most elegant joints imaginable, experiencing their pleasurable effects in this country is still a criminal act. And it's not just a personal argument, either, though Evelyn had earlier detailed the useful information he gleaned from the self-help bible *Conversations With God*.

"Doesn't matter who you are," he continues, "it's your right to feel good." His eyes twinkle, because of course he's also referencing his new album, the warm and mellow

Feelin' Good, out now on Warp.

It's been almost 25 years since that legendary UK label—home to mad geniuses like Aphex Twin, Autechre, Boards of Canada and Broadcast—picked up Nightmares on Wax. They were the

"People call me 'Granddaddy,' but I feel like the apprenticeship is just beginning."

second act signed. "People call me 'Granddaddy,'" Evelyn laughs, "but I feel like the apprenticeship is just beginning."

Back then, NoW were heroes in the early techno scene, progenitors of bleepy anthems like "Dextrous and "Aftermath." But after their ravey 1991 debut collection *A Word of Science*, NoW changed course with *Smokers Delight*, one of the first (and still best) instrumental

hip-hop albums. Since then, Evelyn's released five albums of what has become his signature blend of hip-hop, roots reggae, dub and electro.

"Looking back on those records," Evelyn says, "I smile. They're reflections of where I

was at the time, but that guy doesn't even *exist* now."

Eight years ago, he left England for Ibiza, the famed European outpost of techno-hedonism. The move, he says, "gave me a blank canvas, fresh ears and eyes. *Feelin'*



Om Sweet H(O)m

Ibiza is a paradise, and not just because of its beautiful beaches and wild nightlife. "We're allowed to grow and have two plants per house," Evelyn says. "So everyone's always got cuttings. You put that into a blender, make a cake and, you know—happy days!"

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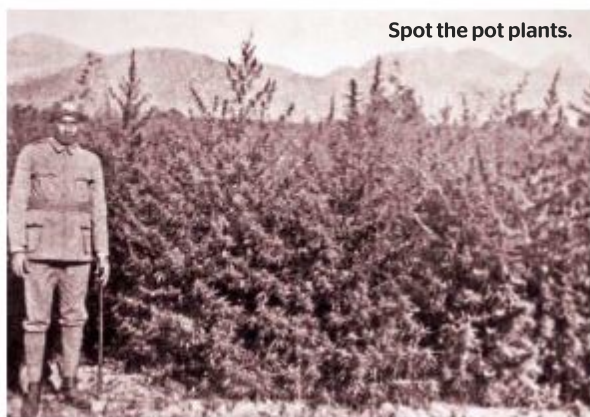
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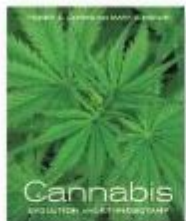
Spot the pot plants.

Best Bud Book

Comprehensive history of marijuana looks under every leaf.

Get ready to win some bets with this one, an incomparable book that makes me want to fashion some new word for the study of the intricate dance that humans have done with the cannabis plant across most of the planet for the last several millennia. It's not just ethnobotany; it's *ethno-evo-historico-ecology*.

Don't let the length of this volume frighten you away, because it's very accessible. The authors, two serious scholars, speak in a remarkably reliable, consistent and lucid voice. They fashion a detailed narrative about how we came across this notable source of food, fiber and fun and then ran with it. The parallel paths of *Homo sapiens*



**Robert C. Clarke
& Mark D. Merlin**
*Cannabis:
Evolution and
Ethnobotany*
(University of
California Press)

and *Cannabis sativa* made me think back another four billion years, to when all living things were essentially one. The authors move elegantly from the cellular to the societal, writing with equal comfort about everything from Peter the Great's hemp sales to the human body's endocannabinoid signaling system.

Despite their extensive understanding of hemp's industrial uses, Clarke and

Merlin are remarkably candid about a simple fact: If the cannabis plant weren't psychoactive, humans probably wouldn't have given it so much attention, and these guys probably wouldn't have written the book. There were moments when I had to entertain that thought we've all had, if only in a particular state: Humans might be cultivating this herb with such fervor because it has been pulling our puppet strings with some undetectable intelligence. Readers might open this book searching for knowledge of cannabis, and they'll certainly get it, but they'll also finish with a superb understanding of the plant's intriguing history, plus new ideas about co-evolution. The details along the way are sure to entertain any cannabis fan—and paying attention to them will help you win those bets. *Mitch Earleywine*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**Kinky Friedman
& the Texas
Jewboys**
*Lost and Found:
The Famous
Living Room Tape*
(Avenue A)

Kinky Friedman is the love child of a little-known tryst 'twixt Hank Williams and Lenny Bruce. Adopted by Jewish Texans, Kinky went on to blend Hank and Lenny in song and write best-selling mystery novels; he is currently tilting at windmills in the sewer of Texas politics. This

record is a 1970 homemade demo of his original band, the Texas Jewboys. One of the Kinkster's magic tricks is to be simultaneously tearful poignant and insultingly irreverent, as in "The Ballad of Charles Whitman," an empathetic ode to Austin's infamous sniper. *Michael Simmons*



Pink Frost
Sundowning
(Notes and Bolts/
BLVD)

Chicago's Pink Frost rise like a phoenix outta the sludge-drone, latch onto the power of the riff and fly. Stacks of rock-radio-ready hooks are piled high in the minor-key scorcery of "Western Child," "Dead Cities," "Occupy Within," and the quick-stepping "Orange Key Suicide," the

last replete with showboaty twin-guitar caterwaul, Keith Moon octopussy drum fills and pithy in-your-face 'tude. "The Difference" and the just plain sweet "Blue Light," are two leavening interludes that peel away the band's tough-kid hides to reveal the fractured hearts within. *John Payne*



**Sacred
Mushroom**
Sacred Mushroom
(Shake It)

Before the city festival circuit; before the psych scene separated itself from "-adelic"; before the Goshorn Brothers Band and Pure Prairie League, Sacred Mushroom were laying down their take on the expansion of Haight-Ashbury-influenced, blues-fused psychedelic rock.

Successfully capturing the fire that Cream, Blue Cheer, Love and countless others had lit, the Cincinnati group proved to be the muddy-river city's trump card. This reissue is an obscure, by-the-people/for-the-people psychedelic rager put back into the hands of you, the enthusiast. *Shawn Abnoxious*

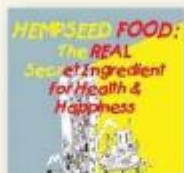
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



**Nicholas Mennuti
and David
Guggenheim**
Weaponized
(Mulholland Books)

A new renegade is stepping onto the world stage. Meet the whistleblower, the man with no country, the ... hero? When the war over information peaks, we can decide what to call the techno-warriors who expose the dirty secrets of governments and corporations. In *Weaponized*, Kyle

West, an Edward Snowden-like character hiding out in Cambodia, gets mixed up with a lovable villain worse than the one he's running from. High adventure ensues, detailed in a cinematic style so clear you can taste the burnt filter of the extinguished cigarette. *Rebekah Harris*



**Mariann
Garner-Wizard**
*Hempseed Food:
The Real Secret
Ingredient for
Health & Happiness*
(Lulu.com)

"Hemp will save the world" ... or so its fiercest advocates insist. In *Hempseed Food*, Mariann Garner-Wizard—a founder of the Texas Hemp Campaign—lays out the medicinal and nutritional value of hemp seeds and hemp oils. She also presents the history of the hemp plant in the US.

Garner-Wizard offers recipes for hemp dips, hempseed-oil mayonnaise, hempseed pasta, hempseed pesto, and various ethnic dishes such as Russian borscht with hemp seeds. Also included are concise directions for making hempseed butter and hempseed brownies. *Jonah Raskin*

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Nutty!

MUNCHIES

Chronic Candied Nuts

A sweet 'n' salty stoner treat.

It's common knowledge that you can find a decent to phenomenal hot dog on nearly any New York City street corner. Almost as prevalent around Gotham are the candied-nut stands, whose sweet aroma beckons to any stoner strolling in the vicinity.

Given that I've recently moved back to the Wild West, I wondered if I would miss these crunchy metropolitan treats

along with Central Park, the West Fourth Street subway stop and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Nope. Not one bit.

That's because my fantastic friend Jim—whose medible business, Mediholics, is taking off in Oregon dispensaries—brought me a bag of his own homemade sugared walnuts my first week back. They're seriously just as good as the NYC treat and, even better, they pack a cannabis punch.

No matter what strain you use, keep this in mind: using solvents (in this case, 190-proof Everclear) instead of fat, glycerin or agave is a more efficient method of extracting cannabinoids.

The recipe calls for one cup of Green Dragon Sugar, which you'll have to prepare beforehand, since the process takes about two months. You'll find Jim's potent recipe for making it below. And stay tuned: Next month, Jim shares his coveted caramel recipe. *Mary Ought Six*

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CRUNCHY MARIJUA-NUTS

For the Green Dragon Sugar:
1oz. buds
1 cup 190-proof Everclear
2 cups sugar

For the Crunchy Marijuana-nuts:
2½ cups unroasted walnuts or raw almonds
1 cup Green Dragon Sugar
½ cup water
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
1½ tsp. Madagascar vanilla

To make the Green Dragon sugar: In a glass jar, soak 1 ounce of buds per 1 cup of 190-proof Everclear for two months in a cool, dark room. (Be sure to make a couple of batches—then you'll have enough for next month's caramel recipe!) Shake the jar once a day. The shaking is the most important part, so don't slack!

Strain the cannabis out of the alcohol and discard the greens. Now you have tincture. Take 1 cup of tincture and pour it onto 2 cups of sugar. Bake it in the

oven at 150°F, stirring every 10 to 15 minutes, for an hour, or until the alcohol has dissipated. The dosage comes out to one-third of a gram of cannabis per teaspoon, and the low heat guarantees minimal terpene loss.

To make the Crunchy Marijuana-nuts: Preheat the oven to 350°F. Heat the walnut halves or almonds for 15 minutes, stirring often. Then remove and set them aside to cool.

While the nuts are cooling, combine the Green Dragon Sugar, water, cinnamon and salt, then heat, testing with a candy thermometer, to the soft-ball stage, 236°F, without stirring. Remove from heat and add the Madagascar vanilla and nuts. Stir gently until the mixture becomes creamy. Turn the nutty concoction out onto a greased cookie sheet and separate the nuts as they cool. *Stones 5-8.*

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- 2 tablespoons soy lecithin
- DO NOT ADD WATER!!!**

HOW TO

- Step 1** Place your ingredients into the MB2 machine.
- Step 2** Press the "Temperature" button and set at 160°F (This is the temperature that you want to use for all of your extractions. The other temperature settings are for cooking.)
- Step 3** Press the "1 Hour/Oil" button.
- Step 4** Strain to remove botanicals and your oil is ready to use.



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Return to the Field of Dreams

One pot farmer's tragic story. *By Chris Simunek*

It was the first time I went on the road for *High Times*, the first time I met a pot grower, and the first time I smelled fresh, uncured marijuana. It was also my first cover story, "The Field of Dreams" [Jan. '95]. Steve Hager had met this older farmer, Hillbilly Al, at a Rainbow Gathering, and the two had connected—not only because Al had bags of free herb, but also because he was one of the most spiritually adept humans ever to have walked

the planet. Al didn't smoke marijuana, but he grew it anyway because he didn't like the government telling him he couldn't.

At Hager's suggestion, photographer Andre Grossman and I drove eight hours to a rural hamlet in Ohio to meet Hillbilly Al. I believe he was once a union representative, but somewhere along the line Al attended a Rainbow Gathering and his whole perspective changed. He bought a farm, started growing weed and became attuned to the earth. "One day I just decided to join the Drug War," Al told me. "It seemed like this side needed some help." I asked him if he was afraid he might go to jail. "I've been to prison, son," he answered, "and they need good people there, too."

The first thing that shocked me on that visit was the garden: hundreds of plants under the open sun, surrounded by one row of corn as camouflage. All of the marijuana I'd ever smelled till that point had been dried or burning, so that

fresh, green, *living* cannabis smell permeating the air for a quarter-mile in every direction was brand-new to me.

Al had a St. Francis-like relationship with his dogs, cats, goats, cows and chickens. He was also a proud hillbilly who had a room in his house



Hillbilly Al making a batch of marijuana moonshine.

devoted to guns. At the time, he asked me to call him the "Dirt Farmer" for the article. But there's no need for secrets now, because Al's dead.

Someone snatched him out, and he

spent several years in prison. True to his word, Al didn't seem too upset about it. He would call me from inside and laugh: "Well, you know, Chris, I'm a talker, and people here, they're a captive audience." He told me that when he got out, he wanted to drive an old school bus down to Central America, and he invited me to come along. But things didn't work out the way Al planned.

I was at work when I got a call from his wife. She had bad news. One night after his release, Al was sitting around with his family. People were drinking, there was an argument about money, someone insinuated that Al was keeping his field profits to himself, and then one of his brothers picked up a gun and shot him dead in front of everyone.

It was a senseless end to an inspiring life. Looking back on Al, nearly 19 years after I first met him, I realize that his story encapsulates the entire spectrum of the War on Drugs: the joy and the heartbreak, the good, the bad and the ugly. ✨

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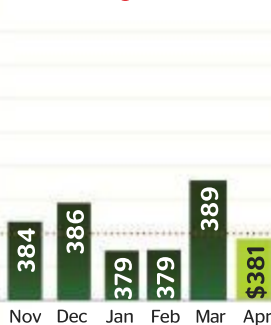
Prices by the ounce

After hitting a record low of \$286 an ounce in March, the US Price Index rebounded this month and closed at an average price of \$302 an ounce. Meanwhile the Kind, Mids and Schwag indices essentially held steady in April. Diesel's reign as the top strain was short-lived. Despite dethroning Kush in March (ending a 27-month stretch of first place finishes), Kush easily regained the top spot in April.

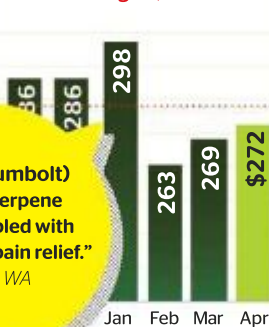
US Price Index
 YTD Average: \$302



Kind Index
 YTD Average: \$382



Mids Index
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TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

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California	Los Angeles San Francisco	Platinum Kush Deadhead OG	320 330
Colorado	Denver Fort Collins	Girl Scout Cookies Cheesequake	300 220
Delaware	Newark	Blue Dream Grand Daddy Purp	360 370
Florida	Hialeah Tallahassee	Blue Cheese Purple Diesel Silver Haze	325 275 260
Georgia	Lilburn	Regs	100
Hawaii	Ocean View	Girl Scout Cookies Fire Alien Kush	350 250
Indiana	Indianapolis	Alaskan Thunderfuck	250
Louisiana	New Orleans	Purple Haze	380
Maine	Portland	Sour Diesel	350
Massachusetts	Boston	AK-47	315
Michigan	Detroit	Sour OG Kush Super Silver Haze	400 375
Minnesota	Saint Paul	Grape Ape	400
Montana	Bozeman	Purple Urkle Blue Dream	200 250
New Jersey	Hoboken Jersey City	Chemdog Strawberry Cough	400 420
New York	New York Syracuse	Skywalker Guava Chem Skunkberry	400 380 300
Ohio	Cincinnati Cleveland Stow	White Widow Purps Jack Herer	375 320 300
Oregon	Portland	Cheese Blackberry Kush	210 150
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Jack Herer	350
Rhode Island	Providence	Trainwreck	300
Texas	Austin	Green Crack	360
Virginia	Richmond	East Coast Sour Diesel	420
Washington	Seattle	Critical Yumbolt	230
Wisconsin	Madison	Blue Dream	320
INTERNATIONAL			
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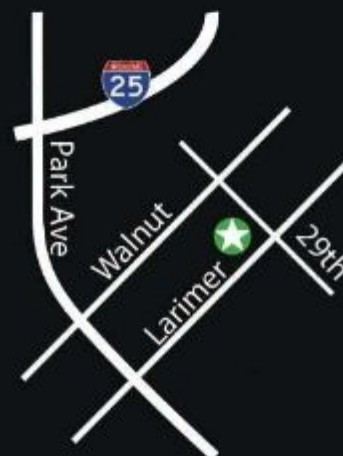
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2 Flip-Flop Stash

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Hiding your valuables is important, whether it's keys, credit cards, cash or your precious pot stash. That's why we love the new Slot Flops from ArchPort, a pair of flip-flops with a secret stash pocket that keeps your items safe from thieves and prying eyes. Perfect for the beach or just kicking back by the hotel pool, Slot Flops provide peace of mind for your sole.

3 Odor Eaters

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kushley.com

Eliminating odors is better than covering them up with perfume. The candles, lotions and mist sprays from Kushley Organic Products are petroleum- and paraben-free, which means no nasty chemicals being released. All Kushley products are made with natural, organic plant extracts and work perfectly to remove unwanted scents and incriminating odors.

4 Tubular Extraction

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caliextractions.com

PVC tubes are not advised for use in essential-oil extraction for many reasons. The new aircraft-aluminum and stainless-steel tubes from CaliExtractions provide a stable and non-toxic environment for extracting hash oil from your leaf, trim or bud. They come in many different sizes, but the company is also willing to custom-build a unit to your exact specifications.

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INDICA

Everybody's Chasin' Cheeba Chews!

As the cannabis industry continues to grow, successful entrepreneurs are separating themselves from the rest of the pack. Cheeba Chews, based in Colorado, has raced to the forefront of the “medibles” marketplace.

Story & Photos by Dan Skye



Whoever uttered the words “If there’s no candy in heaven, I’m not going!” undoubtedly possessed a prodigious sweet tooth. However, we wonder what they’d have to say if they ever tried Cheeba Chews, which pretty much negate the need for such an ultimatum—because Cheeba Chews provide a bit of cannabis-induced paradise right here on earth!

Most members of the cannabis community have sampled a cannabis treat of some kind. And everyone has heard tales—or has a harrowing one of their own—featuring an extreme psychoactive experience. Then there’s the flip side: stories of “medibles” (marijuana edibles) causing coma-like sleep.

And that’s the problem: lack of consistency. Many of us simply seek the cozy, stress-free euphoria that cannabis offers—without having to inhale. More importantly for patients, relief from pain and stress shouldn’t have to be a mind-bending adventure into the unknown.

The pot brownie, of course, is the best-known medible, an iconic hippie relic from a half-century ago that remains popular. But James Howler, the CEO of Cheeba Chews, recalls his

experience purchasing brownies in Colorado dispensaries as the state’s cannabis industry was getting underway.

“I remember I bought one—and nothing!” he says. “When I went back, I bought the same brand of brownie and it knocked me to the floor. I mean for a day! There was no consistency; nobody was testing each batch.”

That was the starting point for Cheeba Chews, the award-winning cannabis candy company based in Boulder, CO. In 2009, James was a legal medical grower who produced hash oil from his trim. He’d sell it to compassion clubs an ounce at a time. But “if it was today,” he says, “Cheeba Chews wouldn’t have gotten started—right now, you can’t get enough hash oil. But I had extra oil, so that’s how I got started.”

He was intrigued by the increasing demand for medibles, but he didn’t want to get into the brownie market. “Who wants to choke down a whole brownie?” James asks rhetorically. “I wanted to make something smaller, something that doesn’t go bad. And I didn’t want to make a tincture or a capsule. I wanted a product that appeals to everyone.”

And he succeeded. Cheeba Chews is far and away the most successful medible company in America, with

unmatched name recognition.

If you buy aspirin or liquor, for instance, you want to feel assured that what you’re purchasing is what you expect and nothing less. That’s why Cheeba Chews’ motto is “Potent. Consistent. Discreet.” Medical consumers need assurance of their medicine’s dosage and physical effects, as well as the ability to keep their medication a private, personal matter.

“A Cheeba Chew allows you to take your dose, wrap it back up and put it in your pocket,” James says. “It’s small, discreet—something you can take in public. Nobody will know. You can be sitting next to someone on a plane and eat a Cheeba Chew.”

So what are Cheeba Chews exactly? It’s not uncommon for them to be compared to Tootsie Rolls, the chewy chocolate candy that’s been around since 1896. Fortunately, Cheeba Chews’ ingredients are a bit more natural, with no hydrogenated soybean oil (a trans fat) or artificial flavors.

Cheeba Chews “flavors” include Sativa Chocolate Taffy, Hybrid Chocolate Taffy and Indica Chocolate Taffy, each of which contains 70 mg of THC. There’s also a Deca Chocolate Taffy that, at 175 mg of THC, contains two and a half times the medicine of the others. All of the Chews



Fruit Flavored Gummies and Trics have just debuted.



Cheeba Chews are sliced into cubes.



Packaging is a primary concern.

can be easily broken up into individual doses. Cheeba Chews has also introduced CBD Chocolate Taffy, with a ratio of 50 mg of THC to 20 mg of CBD. (CBD, or cannabidiol, is the remarkable cannabinoid that has been shown by research to have a variety of healing powers without a psychoactive effect. Bear in mind, however, that THC has healing powers of its own.)

Each of the various Cheeba Chews provides the experience one might expect from a *sativa* (uplifting and energetic) or an *indica* (calming and relaxing), with the Hybrid Chocolate Taffy called a “satisfying compromise.”

Here’s some general Cheeba Chew dosage information, which can vary from person to person. A single dose (17.5 mg THC) is equivalent to one or two bowl hits; a double dose (35 mg THC) would be like three or four bowl hits; a “quad dose” (70 mg THC) is like smoking your own joint; and a “deca dose” (175 mg THC) is for high-tolerance patients only. It’s recommended that you try Cheeba Chews in light doses and monitor your personal capacity.

Cheeba Chews has also launched two new lines of cannabis candies. Fruit Flavored Gummies are chewy, unassuming morsels of medicine, and Trics are flavored lozenges with different potencies. Each item is cut within precise weight tolerances, ensuring consistent medicinal effects every time for patients. The cannabis extract used in Cheeba Chews products is made in-house to guarantee complete control over the entire process. Every single batch of extract is tested for THC, CBD and CBN content. The edibles are also tested on a monthly basis, so Cheeba Chews can continue to boast that its products are the most potent and consistent cannabis edible on the market.

Cheeba Chews employs a staff of 10, which includes kitchen personnel and the company brain trust comprising James and his two partners, Dave



Cheeba Chews kitchen staff create happiness.

“If people are mimicking us, how do we now innovate a little bit further to keep ourselves ahead of everybody else?”

Maggio and Eric Leslie. As the company has grown more successful—winning the High Times Cannabis Cup for Best Edible in both 2011 and 2012—imitators have started cropping up, copying both the packaging and product.

“I guess that’s a sign of the industry maturing,” Dave says. “But we’re secure in the packaging and the presentation of our product. So we always try to get back to what’s made us successful.”

“Right,” says Eric, “it’s something we talk about a lot: How do we present ourselves? How do we continually innovate? If people are mimicking us, how do we now innovate a little bit further to keep ourselves ahead of everybody else? As the industry evolves and grows, how do we stay ahead of trends? In any industry, that’s the biggest challenge: How do we

build better relationships so that people continue to trust the brand?”

Unlike many successful cannabusiness owners on the current scene, James, Dave and Eric have chosen to keep their profile low. Instead, they want their product to be the star. With Cheeba Chews selling at the rate of 10,000 every five days in Colorado alone, they want the focus to remain on the quality of their product, not their personalities or political views.

The fact is that Colorado law has now cleared the way for cannabis commerce. Once you’ve been licensed by the state to make a legal cannabis product that consumers crave—a situation that most of America can hardly fathom—there’s no need to put yourself out there as the “face” of Cheeba Chews. The medibles speak for themselves... loud and clear. ✨

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TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

As the High Times Cannabis Cup commences its next quarter-century of existence, new political challenges have presented themselves in Amsterdam. But our community is formidable—and there should be little doubt who will prevail in the end. *By Samantha Nicholas*



26th ANNUAL

CANNABIS CUP

SPECIAL



Green place

Mo and the Green Place gang celebrate their victory.

Thanks to a coordinated campaign by local cannabis activists, Amsterdam's



Ben Dronkers on the Expo stage, after defying the 5-gram law. Right: Dutch beauty Nadya, who rules the Roest, admires the cup.

It was Thanksgiving night, and the time had come for the final award of the 26th Annual High Times Cannabis Cup. Ben Dronkers had just been inducted into the Counterculture Hall of Fame for his role as a pioneer of the European cannabis scene. And to honor him further, he had been asked to remain onstage and announce the winner of the Cannabis Cup for Best Coffeeshop Strain, the prize voted upon by the thousands of attendees with a judge's pass. Although other super strains had won Cups throughout the night, this one carries the most cred, immediately infusing the winning coffeeshop with prestige, "must-visit" status and a sizable uptick in profits.

Mo, co-owner of the Green Place, wondered whether this would finally be their year. Thus far, it had been a successful night for the Green Place, which had already won the Cannabis Cup for Best Import Hash as well as taking second place for Best Nederhash. But the Green Place coveted that ultimate Cup, and for Mo, its pursuit had become something of an obsession.

From 2008 to 2011, the Green Place, a cozy coffeeshop situated in the heart of Amsterdam, had finished third in the voting for Best Coffeeshop Strain. Last year, it moved to second place, but even so, the Green Place was looking at a stretch of five consecutive Cups in which it had finished behind the Green House, its internationally known competitor and the winner of more



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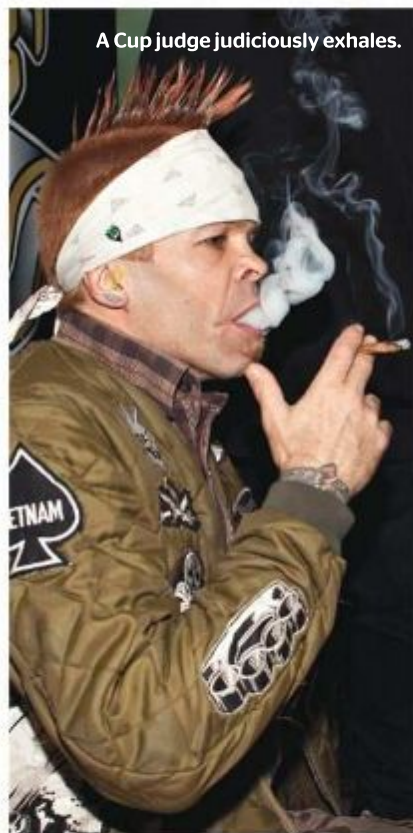
Cannabis Cups than any other entity in the industry.

Mo stood in the Melkweg audience with his Green Place cohorts, along with the judges who had personally weighed in on the best coffeeshop weed, awaiting Ben's announcement.

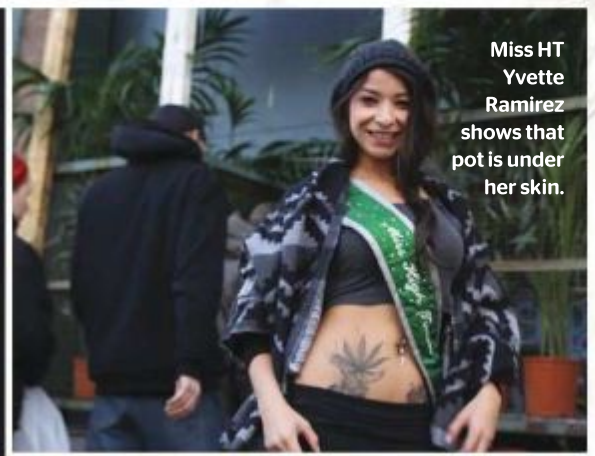
High Times had arrived a week or so earlier, once again greeting a representative sample of the international cannabis industry—because these days, the Cannabis Cup is by no means limited to the Dutch scene. Indeed, as far back as 1995, a twentysomething Canadian grower named Darrell Morgan smuggled his version of BC Bud into the country and took home a bronze medal. ("I crotched it," he explained.)

Suffice it to say that the transportation of Cup entries has become far more sophisticated since then—and so has the legal standing of the entrants. Americans who represent legitimate dispensaries and grow operations have figured prominently among the field of competitors in recent years. In fact, US growers grabbed a handful of awards at this year's Cup: Elemental Seeds and the Tahoe Wellness Collective, both from California, took second place in the *indica* and hybrid categories, respectively, while Reserva Privada, a Colorado-based seed company, won the Cup for Best *Sativa*.

A strong argument can be made that marijuana's newfound favorability in America could not have progressed as far as it has without Holland's influence and, moreover, the phenomenon of the Cannabis Cup itself. Thousands upon thousands of judges have attended the event over its 26 years and returned home to regale their friends with the almost unbelievable tales of Dutch tolerance. After all, who could possibly find fault with some benign, harmless puffing in an Amsterdam coffeeshop, to say nothing of the complete absence of fear among tokers? Who could argue that cannabis users are a menace to society when all the evidence in Amsterdam indicates just the opposite?



A Cup judge judiciously exhales.



Miss HT Yvette Ramirez shows that pot is under her skin.



Judges choose their favorites at the the Cup ballot booth.



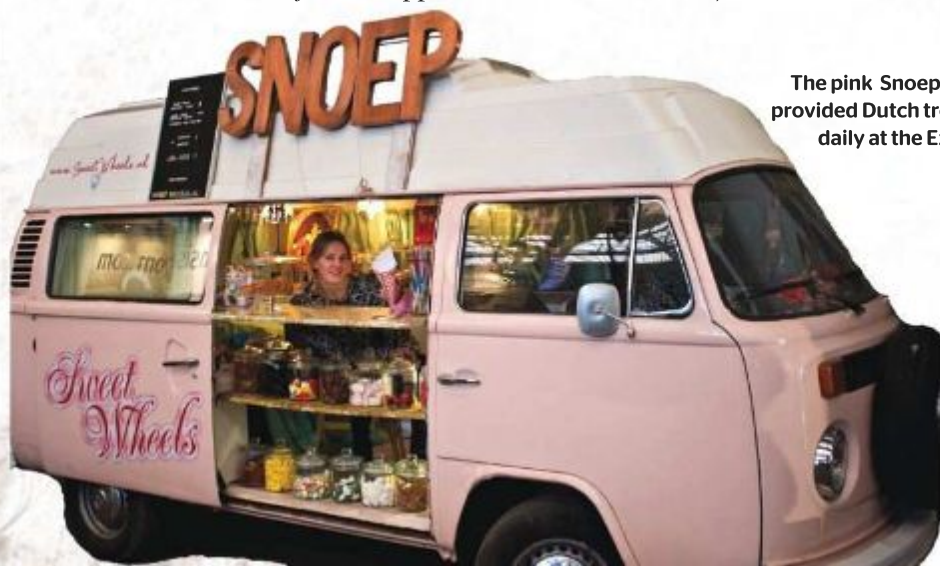
The guys from Grass Roots display the official Cannabis Cup hat.

T. H. Seeds' meant business with this year's

The modern cannabis industry blossomed in the incubator of Dutch culture, which embraces the value of allowing others to live as they choose, so long as it doesn't interfere with society as a whole. In *A History of Cannabis in Holland*, available online, Ben Dronkers writes:

"With the political and social unrest of the 1960s came a (Western) worldwide explosion in the use of cannabis and psychedelics. Many young Europeans left the comforts of home or university to travel to the exotic East. On their travels, the young adventurers adopted many foreign practices—from meditation to vegetarianism to hashish smoking. Soon hashish began to find its way back to Western Europe, with Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and other cities becoming consumption and distribution centers."

Ben calls the official Dutch reaction to this trend "rational and practical." In the mid-'70s, the country's then-minister of health and the interior, Irene Vorik, examined the potential harm of various substances. Recognizing that marijuana was considerably less harmful than almost



The pink Snoep bus provided Dutch treats daily at the Expo.

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Bret Bogue of Apothecary Genetics gets high with a little help from his friends.



Cloud Penz takes a taste of their own medicine.

every other drug, she recommended that Dutch authorities stop persecuting people for the consumption and sale of cannabis for personal use. She also allowed existing youth centers to permit the sale of small amounts of hashish and marijuana. Dronkers says these youth clubs were the precursors of the commercial coffeeshops of today.

Mellow Yellow, opened by Wernard Bruining, was the first coffeeshop to open up in Amsterdam; the Bulldog and Rusland soon followed. Now there are hundreds across the country, as well as a coffeeshop “union” lobbying on behalf of its member businesses.

However, this flourishing industry—which is directly responsible for generating millions of euros in tourism—continues to come under fire from an increasingly restrictive national government. Arbitrary limits have been set as to how much product a coffeeshop may have on its premises, and consumers are permitted no more than five grams in

their possession (though if you’re caught with more, you have the option of turning it over to the police rather than being arrested). Plus the mayor of Amsterdam, Eberhard van der Laan, is pushing a new law that would severely impact coffeeshops located within 250 meters of schools: They’d be required to remain closed until 6 p.m., which infuriates their owners. “We already have these laws,” says one. “We’re very, very strict—we *never* allow anyone under 18 in. All it does is impact our business and our regulars, who are responsible, hardworking adults. It’s a non-issue.”

But non-issues are something that those of us without power are forced to deal with on a daily basis. Politicians thrive by pointing to a policy—or lack of one—and calling it a crisis. Or else they’ll turn a non-issue into a fabricated crisis—like those nonexistent WMDs in Iraq. Or illegal Mexican immigrants flooding across the US border. Or schoolkids toking up in Amsterdam coffeeshops.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, a widely shared distaste and distrust for our own political leadership continues to grow. A recent Pew Research poll found that only 19 percent of Americans surveyed said they trust government in Washington to do what is right “always” or “most of the time.”

Perhaps next time Pew should survey the cannabis community exclusively, because an unprecedented unanimity of distrust would reveal itself. After all, few sectors of the population have been subject to



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more hypocrisy and forced to deal with more non-issues than ours.

One good example is the Cannabis Cup itself: Throughout its existence, no wanton lawlessness of any kind has ever occurred. Sure, the occasional argument or altercation has erupted, but the strife is always handled in-house—by and among ourselves—and the outcome is always positive. In short, calling the police has never been required.

But at the 24th Cup in 2011, over 100 Dutch cops descended upon the expo on the second-to-last day of the event, responding to rumors that hard-drug commerce was rampant. They were epically wrong, and no arrests were made—except for Mila, Amsterdam's resident hash queen, who gleefully made a political statement by flaunting 200 grams of fresh pollen in the cops' faces. Despite her arrest, however, the event continued the next day, and the Cannabis Cup awards were presented as usual. One can only wonder how pleased the citizens of Amsterdam were to find themselves footing the bill for that heavy-handed police response to a complete non-issue.

At the 26th Cannabis Cup, there were more non-issues to deal with. The site was the same as last year's: the Roest,

A vaporous haze wafted above the throngs, evidence that five grams apiece for hundreds of stoners still results in a pretty impressive pot party.

located near Amsterdam city center, which occupies a canal-side industrial lot dominated by a massive former factory edifice that housed the five-day expo. At the turnstiles, every arrival—judge and vendor alike—was subject to a search in order to ensure that no one entered the grounds carrying more than five grams. Naturally, this eliminated the ostentatious display of cannabis by seed companies and coffeeshops and its widespread sharing among attendees—a highlight of every Cannabis Cup, whether in Amsterdam or the US.

Behold the non-issue! Why must a private event not open to those under 18, which promotes and celebrates legal cannabis businesses—while simultaneously contributing considerably to the local economy through tourism and taxes—be

forced to hide the actual centerpiece of its celebration? (More on this later.)

Inside the doors of the expo, scores of cannabusinesses had set up shop for seed buyers, paraphernalia browsers and those looking for a cannabis-themed wardrobe. As each day's expo progressed, a vaporous haze wafted above the throngs, evidence that five grams apiece for hundreds of stoners still results in a pretty impressive pot party.

The cannabusiness heavyweights were all there. Don and Aaron of DNA Genetics, the winners of multiple Cannabis Cups, greeted their admirers throughout the week, while Milo, the Big Buddha himself, erected his famous temple-like booth dedicated to the worship of his renowned Cheese strains. Milo wound up winning top honors for Best Booth, Product and Glass, while DNA's subsidiary, Reserva Privada, grabbed the Cup for Tangie in the Best *Sativa* category. Whitewalker OG from Gold Coast Collection took the Cup for Best *Indica*. James and Michael Loud didn't need volume to attract seed buyers to their booth. Loud Seeds, one of the newest yet most successful seed companies, won last year's Hybrid Cup (for Loud Scout) and is expanding its operations from Northern

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High Times was thrilled to see Sensi Seeds return to the Cannabis Cup after more than a decade. The venerable seed company is widely respected for its dedication to the plant and its unswerving activism. Ben Dronkers has been the driving force behind the Sensi empire. He's the founder of the Hash, Marihuana & Hemp Museum and Sensi Seed Bank and was the owner of HempFlax, which grew acres of industrial hemp in Holland. No greater advocate for cannabis exists in the country—and his advocacy did not lie dormant at the Cup.

In the expo's seminar room, where a lineup of industry celebs presented seminars and lectures daily, Dronkers used his time slot on the expo's last day to defy the five-gram possession law. When he took the stage, he directed sexy Sensi staffers dressed as harem girls to hand out pot to the audience. (Evidently, quite a bit more than five grams had escaped the detection of the security guards.)

No sooner had they started than a Roest security guard jumped onto the stage and asked Ben to stop. But he would have none of it, shouting "We stand up for our rights!" and "We're not

going to take it anymore!" Meanwhile, two Sensi Seed supporters grabbed the guard and hustled him out of the seminar room to rousing cheers—not violently, mind you, but enough so that he was thoroughly pissed off.

A brouhaha ensued and more security guards appeared, demanding that those who'd grabbed the first guard be ejected. Ben promised to exit with his entire crew if that transpired. Despite the standoff, High Times managed to calm the situation—and with only 90 minutes left before the expo's doors closed for good, the security guards relented, thereby averting any further drama.

On the one hand, Ben's point was well taken: Nothing good has ever happened in the cannabis-law reform movement without someone breaking the rules. Whether it's growing, selling or smoking, we've all done it from time to time. And regardless of how tolerant Amsterdam may be—or how accepted cannabis is becoming in America—we are still oppressed by unjust laws.

Still, some felt that the Sensi Seeds action was ill advised, if not downright counterproductive. The Roest facility supports cannabis legalization, and so does High Times—obviously. But both

the Roest and High Times were bound by the permits they'd signed and by the laws of the country hosting the event. They also had obligations to the vendors who were following the expo's guidelines, which had been clearly established beforehand. Needless to say, no one would have been happy if the event had been forced to close down.

At 6 p.m., the expo's doors were shut for the final time, and all attention shifted—thankfully—to the Cannabis Cup awards show. The Melkweg, Amsterdam's gem of a rock club, soon filled up with Cup-goers.

In addition to the various winners, Alison Holcomb, who spearheaded Washington State's drive to legalization, was named Freedom Fighter of the Year, and Jorge Cervantes, the cultivation guru who has taught garden magic to thousands of growers, accepted the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award. (But rest assured, "I'm not done yet!" Jorge says.)

As always, the anticipation mounted as the Cup for Best Coffee-shop Strain drew near. After Ben Dronkers once again asserted his defiance of the laws preventing "our freedom as human beings," he got down

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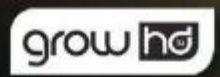


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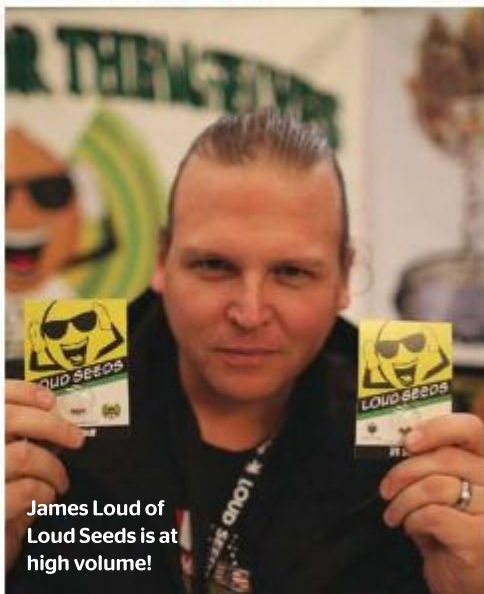
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The Cup crowd clamored for Cloud V vaporizer pens.



James Loud of Loud Seeds is at high volume!



Milo of Big Buddha Seeds celebrates his triple win with Miss HT.

to business and announced the winners. The Bushdocter took third place. Then second place was announced: It was the Green House ... not the Green Place.

Mo and crew held their collective breath—it was either first place or nothing. Then Ben read the winner: “The Green Place, for Rollex OG Kush!” Mo dropped to his knees in disbelief. Finally, on the sixth try, the Green Place had broken through!

Onstage, ecstasy reigned, with one Green Place staffer shouting out joyfully: “That’s the Green Place—not the Green House!”

The following day, Mo’s glow was still showing. “I was shocked!” he reported over and over. “So many times—Green House, Green House, Green House. They were always beating us. But now it is our turn!”

The Green Place has plans. Mo wants to expand—to attract more business, generate more tourist dollars and create an increased level of cannabis commerce, thereby enhancing the coffeeshop experience.

It’s the kind of thing that all forward-thinking businesses want to do. And like so much else when it comes to cannabis, it’s a true non-issue. ✨



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Burnin' it Up at the 26th Cup

This year's musical entertainment kept the Cannabis Cup aglow.

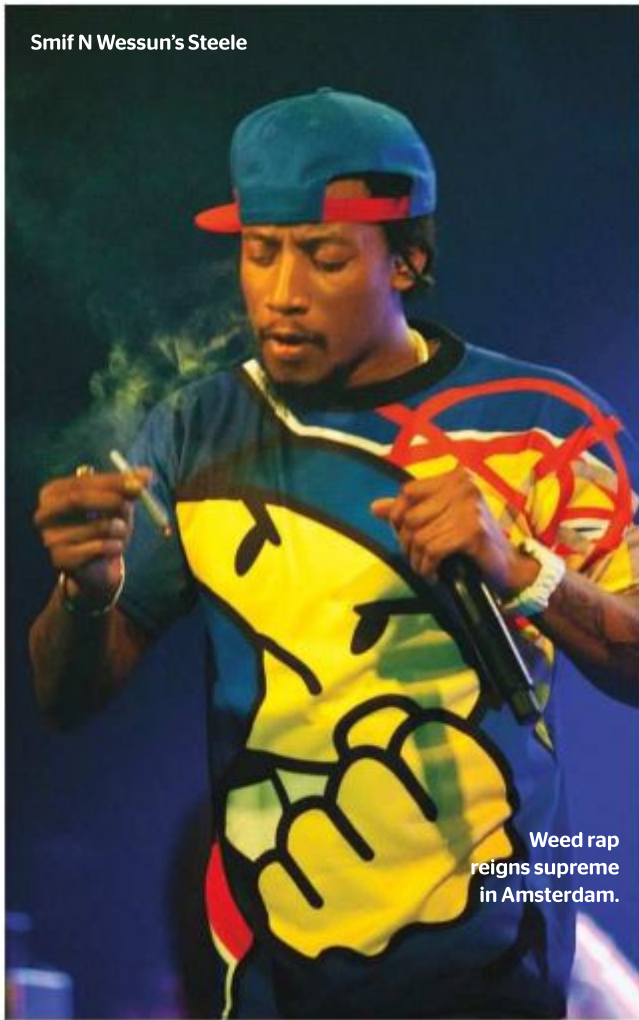
By Mary Jane Gibson

The 26th Annual Cannabis Cup summoned a slew of talent to Amsterdam's storied Melkweg, a gorgeous warehouse venue smack in the center of the canal-ringed city, just steps from the Leidseplein and the scores of coffeeshops participating in the Cup. Those in attendance gained free entry to every show if they had a judge's pass, and sponsors like Cloud V, Loud Seeds, Apothecary Genetics and Cloud Penz made sure there was no shortage of swag—or weed—to go around.

Killer Mike and El-P started the week off with a hip-hop bang. Following a groovy dancehall set by Marlon Asher, the duo brought their Run the Jewels tour to the stage with their trademark wit and savage rhymes, performing hits like "Banana Clipper" and "Sea Legs." Killer Mike delivered a searing "Reagan" from the belly of the crowd, which chanted along "Fuck Ronald Reagan!" The audience also hollered as El-P spat "Patriotism"—with lyrics like "You don't even know the chemicals you've ingested / Urine tested / Beat innocent man till he confesses," he found plenty of approval from the sea of stoners.

After that auspicious beginning to the ganja celebrations, Smif N Wessun opened Tuesday night with a healthy dose of pot-infused humor, puffing their





Smif N Wessun's Steele

Weed rap reigns supreme in Amsterdam.



Wu-Tang stand out on the stage. Killah performs with RZA at the Connection Homegrown Party.

N.O.R.E samples Amsterdam's finest in the green room.



Cam'ron kills it.

The crowd went sailing into the night on a true-felt wave of fellowship and hope.

way through a swell set with songs like "Let's Git It On" and sampling MC Hammer, the Wu-Tang Clan and classic Michael Jackson. Hip-hop fans were thrilled with Cam'ron's ferocious follow-up; he was in top form, burning up the Melkweg with numbers including "I Really Mean It," "Leave Me Alone," and "Oh Boy" ("Just blaze / Oh baby" ... preach, Killal!). There was no need for the venue's fog machine that night; the audience members were enveloped in a sweet, smoky haze as the night wrapped up and they poured out onto the rainy streets.

On the third night of the Cannabis Cup, a stoner gave to me ... four joints and a whiskey. So my head was abuzz and my stomach toasty as I



Puffin' tuff.



Fuck Ronald Regan.

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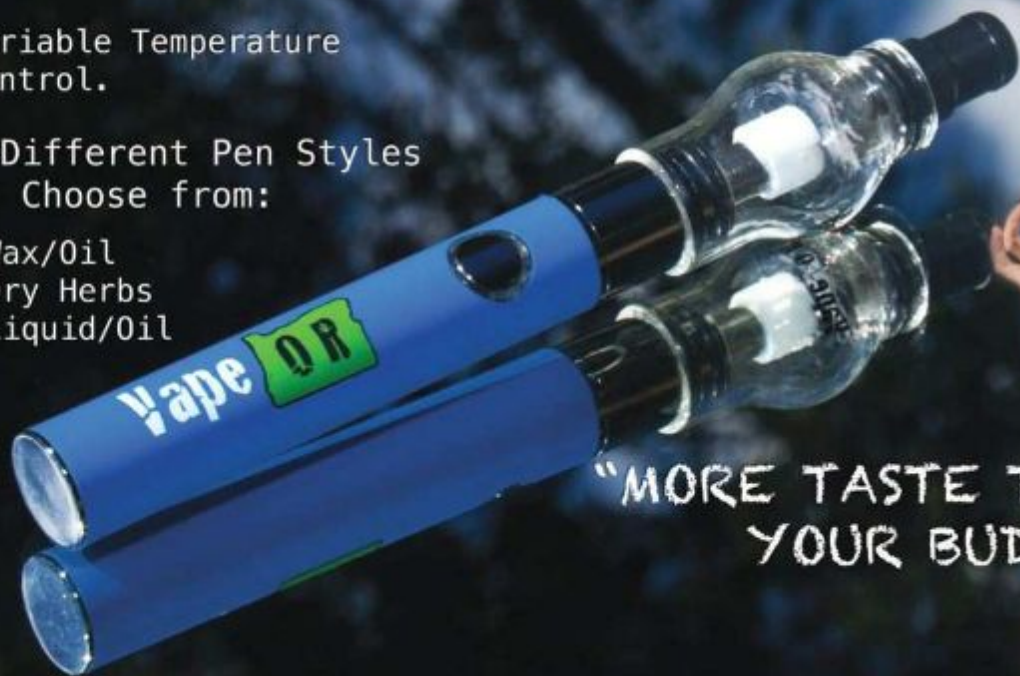
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The Wailers

watched the legendary Wailers deliver a stirring set of reggae anthems. Aston “Family Man” Barrett, the Wailers’ bassist for an incredible 44 years, provided the heart and backbone of the band, who were warmly met by the eager audience. The Wailers got everyone moving with “Buffalo Soldier,” followed by back-to-back hits like “Get Up, Stand Up,” “I Shot the Sheriff” and “Is This Love.” The energy and vitality flowed throughout the room as the crowd sang along to “Redemption Song,” and the joy was infectious when the Wailers broke into that perfectly upbeat morning tune, “Three Little Birds.” They capped off the evening with “Exodus,” which sent the crowd sailing into the night on a true-felt wave of fellowship and hope. The Wailers supplied the audience with a beautiful cannabis connection, as well as the energy to face the final day—and final strains—of the Cannabis Cup. It was a beautiful night. ✨

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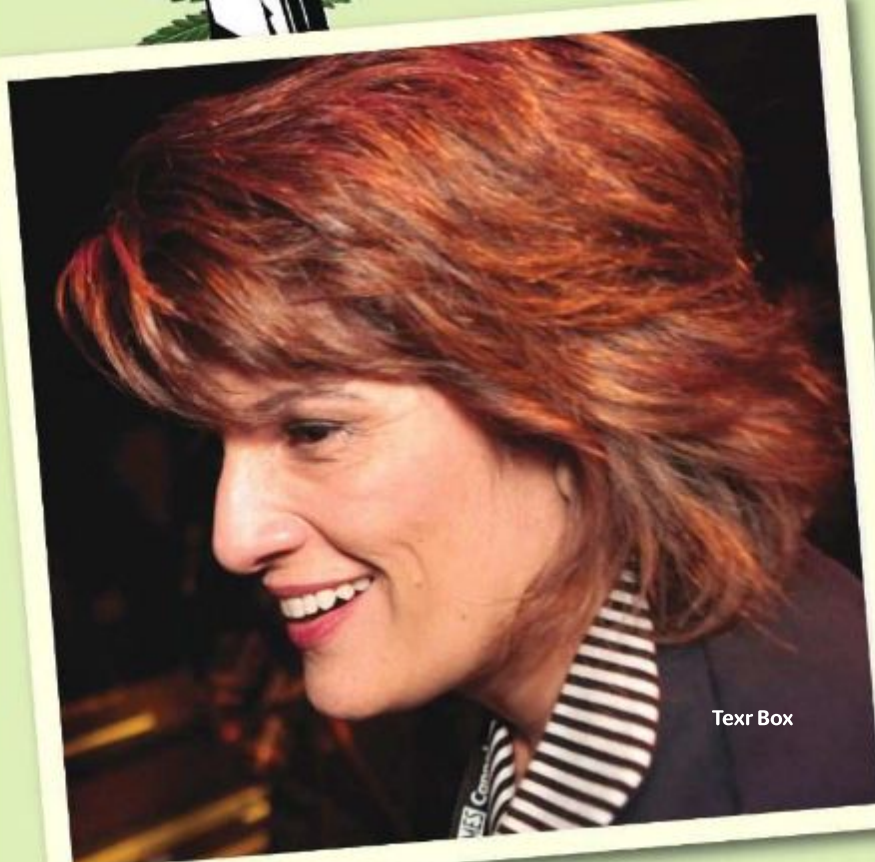
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Texr Box

Alison Holcomb

Freedom Fighter of the Year

As the primary author of legalization initiative 502, Alison Holcomb was the driving force behind legalizing pot in Washington State. Now widely regarded as the most effective activist in Washington, Alison was named Freedom Fighter of the Year at the 26th annual High Times Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

While this was her first Amsterdam Cup experience, Alison recognized the importance of the Freedom Fighter award. “The original High Times Freedom Fighters reignited activists’ hope during a dark time for marijuana law reform efforts. They refused to give up. It’s an incredible honor to receive an award in their name.”

As for the event itself, Alison was impressed with the “strong feeling of community” it fostered. Ultimately, she believes “the evolution of pot policy over the coming years will be a dance in which parts of the US, Netherlands, Uruguay and other nations will rotate the lead, and we’ll all become better dancers as a result.”

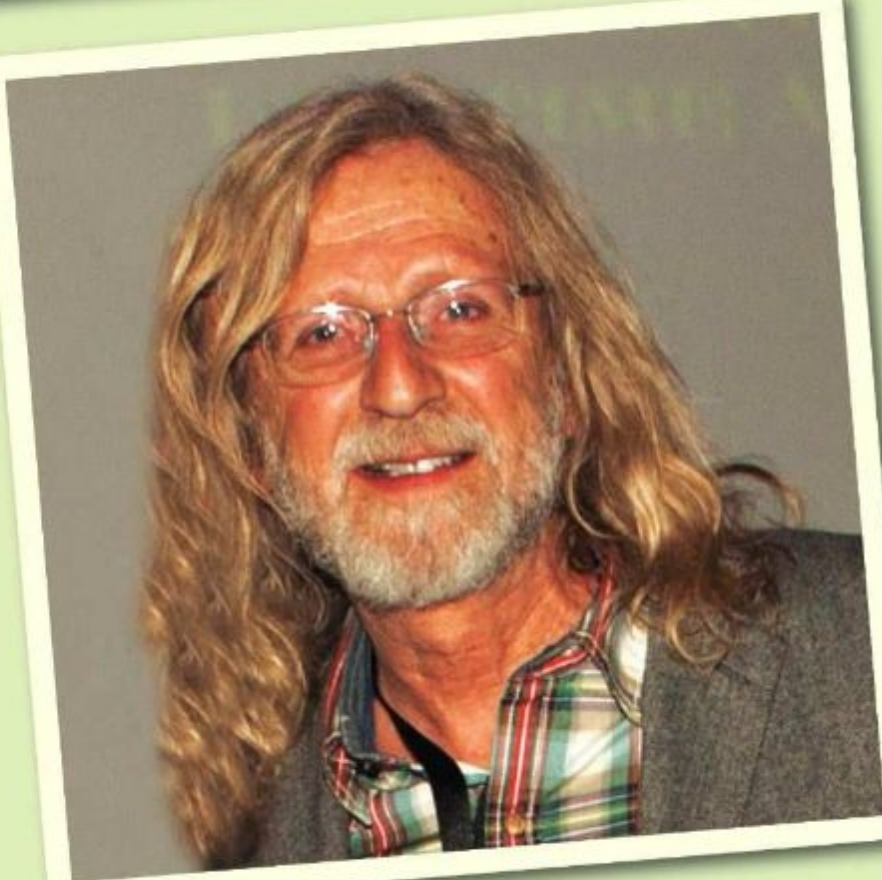
Jorge Cervantes

Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award

When I smoked my first joint in 1971, I had no idea of the role that cannabis would play in my life—or that I would one day be standing on a stage in Amsterdam accepting the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you all so much for sharing this moment with me—and thank you, High Times, for initiating the award.

This honor comes out of nowhere for me; I joined no contest and had no deadline. I was selected because I love to share cannabis cultivation information. The best part is that I have been learning from you for more than 30 years.

The changes during this time have been profound. We are making the transition from being viewed by society as criminals to being treated as what we really are—taxpaying citizens. Likewise, the status of cannabis during the last three decades has gone from “devil’s weed” to accepted medicine. I have been fortunate to be a part of this change and share it with you. And I am proud to have influenced and be influenced by so many growers around the world. *Jorge Cervantes*



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2013 Cannabis Cup Winners

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko reveals the flavors, highs and distinct characteristics of the incredible buds and hash chosen as the world's finest in our annual pot contest.



Danny hits the tomahawk joint.



COFFEESHOP FLOWERS

The 26th Annual High Times Cannabis Cup, much like the ones that came before it, is anchored by this category. These are the buds that all of the Cup attendees smoke in the various coffeeshops and vote on during the week. For the first time in over a decade (back when the Noon won for Blueberry at the 13th Cup in 2000), a coffeeshop other than the Green House or Barney's took first place. Congratulations to the Green Place!

Their entry, Rollex OG Kush, comes from Devil's Harvest Seeds; it's a cross of Kuchi and White Fire grown from seed and hand-watered using Veganic methods. After nine weeks of flowering (and with proper flushing techniques), the result is pungent, sticky nuggets of fire.

Second place went to last year's winner, Flowerbomb Kush from the Green House, a cross of Green Crack and OG Kush that was grown in soil and ended up wowing the judges all week long. Third place went to Tangie from the Bushdoctor, a citrus-flavored masterpiece whose flavor lasts and lasts.

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SEED COMPANY SATIVAS

What can we say about Tangie, a breakout strain from 2013 that's won or placed in almost every marijuana contest in which it's been entered? This is a Reserva Privada masterpiece, flavorful and potent beyond belief. Judges were impressed by her citrus scent and captivating, soaring high that seemed to last for hours.

Hortilab took second place with Sour Power, a sister pheno of their past winner, Starbud, crossed with East Coast Sour Diesel V3. Grown in coco, the Sour Power burned to a clean, white ash and kept the judges coming back for more.

Third place went to Karma Genetics for their Headbanger, a cross between KG's Sour Diesel IBL and Biker Kush V1.0. Grown from seed, the Headbanger takes 11 weeks to finish but is well worth the wait. The folks at Karma recommend feeding her with Hy-Pro and Aptus in order to get the most out of this unique light-feeding variety.



SEED COMPANY INDICAS

Winning first place in the *indica* category, the Whitewalker OG from Gold Coast Collections revealed why it's a great strain for concentrates: The super-frosty buds, covered in greasy trichomes, provide a licorice-and-lemon combo of scents and flavors and an unmatched potency level.

The True OG from Elemental Seeds, a multiple High Times Medical Cannabis Cup winner in the States, came in second overseas. A perfect example of the Kush family of genetics, True OG continues to shine brightly in competition.

Third place went to KnightsBridge OG from Lady Sativa Genetics, a relatively new UK outfit looking to score big with their first contest entry. And score they did, with breeder J Hoover telling me: "Danny, now I know this contest is fair. I'd heard rumors that it's fixed and that you have to have a booth and purchase ads in the magazine [before you can win]. I can't afford all that yet—I simply entered my gear with the bare minimum—and the fact that we placed proves the Cup can be won by anyone who brings great weed!"



SEED COMPANY HYBRIDS

Multiple Cannabis Cup winner and Amsterdam marijuana legend Soma earned first place in the hybrid category with Somari, his Soma Sacred Seeds triple cross of NYC Diesel, Buddha's Sister and Kushadelic. As always, she was organically grown in soil with guano and worm castings, and the judges absolutely raved about her uplifting, long-lasting and quite pleasing effects.

Coming in a close second was Girl Scout Cookies from the Tahoe Wellness Cooperative. The grower, Cody Bass, uses seabird guano and fish emulsion from Fort Bragg to feed this OG Kush x Durban Poison x Cherry Pie hybrid in organic soil beds.

Third place was secured by Resin Seeds for their Dieseltonic, a high-CBD strain popular in Spain for its flavors and healing qualities. Another Veganic entry grown with BioCanna and hand-watered, Dieseltonic proves that CBD-rich strains can compete with their high-THC cousins, as long as they're properly flushed and cured.

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SEED COMPANY HASH

When it comes to concentrates, the contest has become increasingly competitive, with extract artists creating masterpieces of their craft using cutting-edge techniques to produce a product that gets better with every Cup. This year, first place went to Lemon Cleaner OG Nectar, a four-way collaboration by Archive Seed Bank, TCLabs, TerpX and EmoTek. Giddy Up told us this shatter was run with n-butane in an EmoTek closed-loop unit and not open-blasted.

A close second-place finisher, the Whitewalker OG from Gold Coast Extracts was certainly a top-shelf extract. This pale-colored budder took first place at our Seattle Cup and will certainly win in marijuana contests in the future.

A solventless extract actually won third place in a contest full of BHO! The Chemblend Solventless Wax from Elemental Seeds and Essential Extracts was made by Selecta Nikka T from a blend of Chem's Sister, Chem D and Chem 91, all grown by Johnny Trill. It melted perfectly and was as dabbable as any other entry.



The crowd at the Melkweg anticipates the results.



CBD AWARDS

We should also take note of our two CBD Award winners.

Strains rich in CBD (cannabidiol) have proven quite effective in treating many illnesses and conditions, and they have now become a key focus of the continuing research into marijuana's medicinal effects. In the flowers category, Cannatonic from Elemental Seeds took home top CBD honors, while in concentrate form, the prize was earned by CBD Simple from Phytosphere Systems. Kudos to both companies for delivering a product that can truly make a difference in the lives of those in need.

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SEED COMPANY**INDICA**

1st Place

Whitewalker OG *Gold Coast Collection*

2nd Place

The True OG *Elemental Seeds*

3rd Place

KnightsBridge OG *Lady Sativa Genetics***SATIVA**

1st Place

Tangie *Reserva Privada*

2nd Place

Sour Power *Hortilab*

3rd Place

Headbanger *Karma Genetics***HYBRID**

1st Place

Somari *Soma's Sacred Seeds*

2nd Place

Girl Scout Cookies *Tahoe Wellness Cooperative*

3rd Place

Dieseltonic *Resin Seeds***HASH**

1st Place

Lemon Cleaner OG *Nectar Archive Seed Bank*

2nd Place

Whitewalker OG *Gold Coast Extracts*

3rd Place

Chemblend Solventless Wax *Elemental Seeds***CBD FLOWERS****Cannatonic** *Elemental Seeds***CBD CONCENTRATE****CBD Simple** *Phytosphere Systems***COFFEESHOPS****NEDERHASH**

1st Place

Green House *Lemon Crystal*

2nd Place

Green Place *Shoreline Solventless*

3rd Place

The Bushdocter Coffeeshop *Tangie Wax***IMPORT HASH**

1st Place

Green Place *Twizzla*

2nd Place

Green House *Chemdog Cream*

3rd Place

The Bushdocter Coffeeshop *Maroc Lemon Haze***THE CANNABIS CUP**

1st Place

Green Place *Rollex OG Kush*

2nd Place

Green House *Flowerbomb Kush*

3rd Place

The Bushdocter Coffeeshop *Tangie***EXPO****BEST BOOTH**

1st Place

Big Buddha Seeds

2nd Place

Devil's Harvest

3rd Place

Sensi Seeds**BEST PRODUCT**

1st Place

Buddha Giftbag *Big Buddha Seeds*

2nd Place

Cloud V *Cloud V*

3rd Place

Sublimator *Sublimator***BEST GLASS**

1st Place

Honey Collabs Collection *Master Yoda/Big Buddha Seeds*

2nd Place

Silika Glass *Loud/Silika*

3rd Place

ROOR *Ray Pack*

Miss High Times 2013
Yvette with the sacred
Cannabis Cup.

JUDGE YOU NEXT YEAR!

At the end of the day, we have to congratulate all of the winners and entrants! There wasn't a single category in which it was easy to make a decision, and our judges worked hard all week long testing each entry in order to determine the top three. Kudos to every participant, and we look forward to an even tougher contest next year at the 27th Annual High Times Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

**COFFEESHOP HASHISH**

It wouldn't be an Amsterdam Cannabis Cup if we didn't have a hashish competition. This has traditionally been divided into two categories: Nederhash, which is made in the Netherlands from plants grown there, and Import Hash, which comes from traditional hash-producing areas like Morocco or India and is then smuggled into Holland.

In the Best Import Hash category, Green Place took first for Twizzla, a soft Moroccan hashish with a full, spicy flavor and lingering high that soothes both body and mind. Chemdog Cream from Green House took second place and features an intense, long-lasting buzz. Third place went to the Bushdocter for their Maroc Lemon Haze—another Moroccan entry, but with the distinct

terroir of the Rif Mountains and a purity that was hard to beat.

In the Best Nederhash category, perennial power Green House won first place for Lemon Crystal, a concentrated cross of their Super Silver Haze and Lemon Skunk strains. Supremely potent, the Lemon Crystal kept judges stoned and happy all week long. The Green Place shared their second-place prize for Shoreline Solventless with the folks from Devil's Harvest Seeds, whose strains and expertise proved an extremely popular draw for the shop. Last but certainly not least, the Tangie Wax available at the Bushdocter smoked clean and hit hard. Judges who missed their usual dabs had no qualms firing up some Tangie Wax for a taste of the best that they get back home.



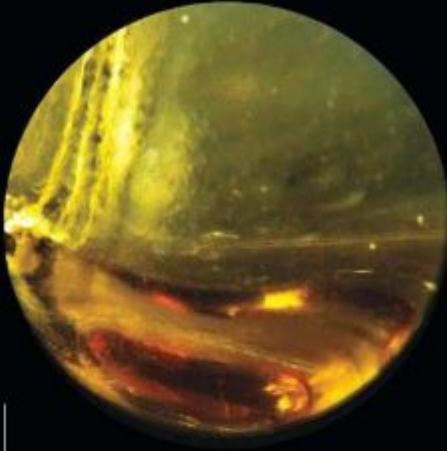
SHORELINE SOLVENTLESS
(Green Place Coffeeshop)



WHITEWALKER OG
(Gold Coast Extracts)



CHEMBLEND SOLVENTLESS WAX
(Elemental Seeds / Essential Extracts / Johnny Trill)



CBD SIMPLE
(Phytosphere Systems)



MAROC LEMON HAZE
(The Bushdoctor Coffeeshop)



TANGIE WAX
(The Bushdoctor)



LEMON CRYSTAL
(Green House Coffeeshop)



LEMON CLEANER OGNECTAR
(Archive Seed Bank / TerpX / EmoTek)



TWIZZLA
(Green Place Coffeeshop)



CHEMDOG CREAM
(Green House Coffeeshop)

HIGH TIMES
CUP WINNERS

ROLLEX OG KUSH
(Green Place Coffeeshop)



TANGIE
(The Bushdoctor Coffeeshop)



FLOWERBOMB KUSH
(Green House Coffeeshop)



TANGIE
(Reserva Privada)



SOUR POWER
(Hortilab)



HEADBANGER
(Karma Genetics)



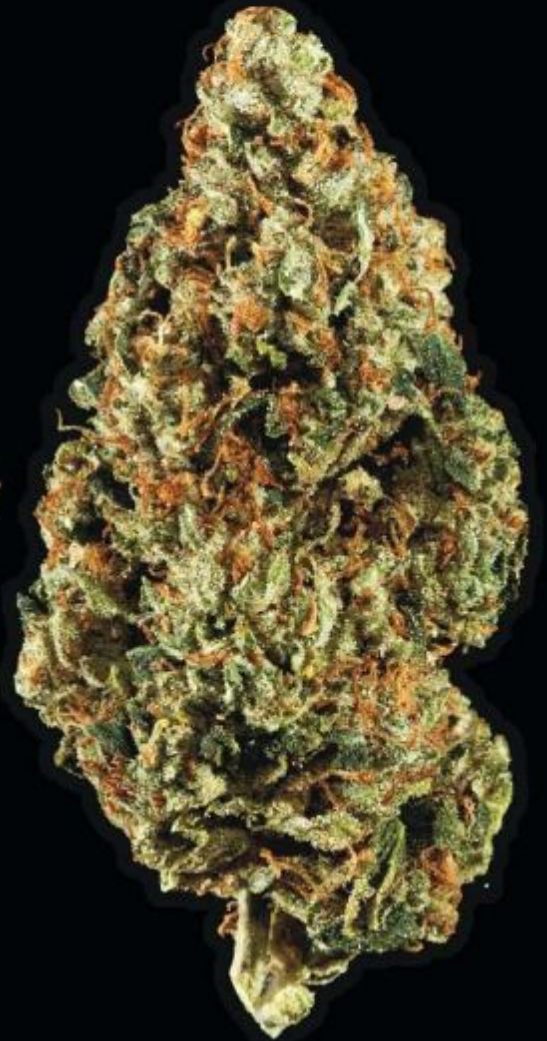
WHITEWALKER OG
(Gold Coast Collection)



THE TRUE OG
(Elemental Seeds)



KNIGHTSBRIDGE OG
(Lady Sativa Genetics)



GIRL SCOUT COOKIES
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The author checks out Canadian medical bud production.

BC Bud Grows Up

Our Canadian grow correspondent gives us a rare peek into the future of large-scale medical marijuana production in this behind-the-scenes look at one of the leaders in the global cannabis-cultivation industry.
Story & Photos by Erik Biksa

From “Beasters” to Best Herbs

For decades now, the abbreviation “BC” has typically been followed by the word “Bud” in the global context of stoner-speak. The opinion that may follow the term is largely dictated by where you find yourself on the underground marijuana-trading routes (which, by the way, continue to wither as the push for decrim and legalization grows).

British Columbia’s “triple-A” product is sure to wow even the snottiest of pot connoisseurs (so long as you don’t tell them where it’s from). Trouble is, very few can get their hands on it, historically speaking, and were more likely to encounter the price-based selections that have been produced on

a staggering commercial scale by BC’s criminal marijuana-growing operations.

So, over the years, BC has seen its reputation transformed from the place up north where that killer bud came from to the place up north flooding the market with mid-grade commercial pot.

Regardless of how you judge BC bud, it’s impossible to deny that British Columbia has become a leader in the global pot-cultivation industry. And as a result—especially when it comes to the sheer scale of the growing operations (don’t forget, we’re talking about a place where 100-light grows are not that uncommon)—BC growers may be among the world’s best at “going big.”



Sky's the limit: Things are looking up for Canadian corporations serious about cultivating on a large scale.

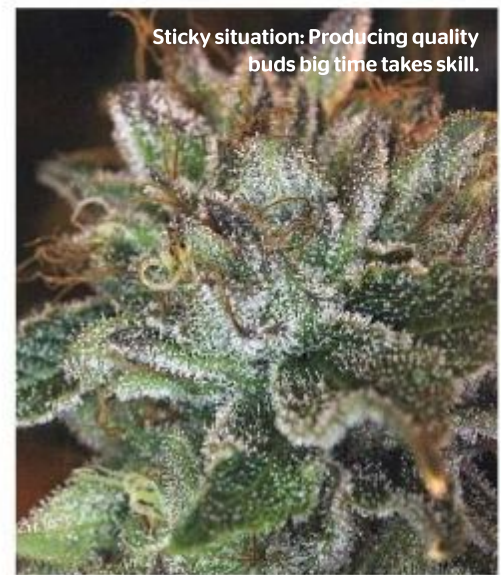
Bigger and Better

It's relatively easy to grow a closet full of buds these days. But unless you've tried to grow on a very large scale, it can be difficult to appreciate the level of skill and ingenuity it takes to churn out 100 lights' worth of the "triple A"—let alone while it's still all cops-and-robbers outside. Now imagine doing that for years and years.

More recently, Canada has had in place a soon-to-be-revamped medical marijuana access program in which Health Canada, a federal agency, allowed patients and designated growers to legally produce medical pot within certain guidelines. In earlier years, the program serviced a few thousand people, but the latest numbers are around 30,000—and growing.

A doctor's recommendation is required, which often means lots of visits, tests and charts. Some patients felt that doctors were initially discouraged from participating; however, medical marijuana has become much more recognized and accepted in the country, especially in places like BC.

All things being equal, the current citizen-based cultivation program—which has been the subject of considerable criticism from police associations and Canada's current right-wing Conservative Party government—is slated to end in April 2014. Also, mandatory-minimum sentences, reminiscent of the draconian prison-for-profit system that the United States has had for decades, are already in place here and may



Sticky situation: Producing quality buds big time takes skill.

begin to be enforced. It's a self-perpetuating system, because property seizures are part of law enforcement's mandate. And if you're caught with anything more than six plants, it can get serious.

Oddly, this is happening in a place where the national polls show that about 60 percent of Canadians would like to see cannabis either decriminalized or legalized outright. Canada also ranks among the world's highest when it comes to the per-capita population of daily tokers—and its economy is kicking ass!

Licensed Farming

Under the new system, the federal government seeks to license marijuana cultivation out to private corporations, which will operate under a series of strict rules and regulations in order to prevent potential "abuses" (i.e., unauthorized bud sales).

The way it's shaping up, a handful of corporations will now be exclusively authorized to grow medical pot in Canada. However, the clock for implementing this new system is running out, and it remains to be seen whether the challenge of providing that 30,000-and-growing list of licensed patients with their medical bud can be met in this manner. For one thing, that number of patients may require an average of 90,000 grams of marijuana per day. For another, those patients will need access to a variety of strains—to say nothing of the problems of delivering it to them and collecting payment in a way that is safe and reliable.

However the new system pans out, one thing is clear: Large-scale production that can deliver both consistent and reliable high-quality results is the new challenge that must be met. And one such facility gives us a rare peek into what may be the future of medical marijuana production in Canada.



The corporate Canadian med market is open for business.



Hedge funds: Plants receive lots of light for maximum yields.



Each stage of crop development is carefully managed and monitored.

Inside the Big Grow

Even as a writer who has covered several large-scale medical marijuana facilities before—including in underground concrete bunkers—nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to see, following a darkened ride somewhere in rural BC, when I finally arrived at “the place.”

When you walk in, it’s like walking into the back end of a professionally run warehouse distribution center: You know they have oodles of stuff here, but you don’t see it right away. It’s all organized and compartmentalized, in keeping with the responsible production practices required under the new mandate (as outlined in the federal government’s official register, the *Canada Gazette*).

A central corridor wide enough to drive a truck through connects each of the growing areas, much akin to a header house in a large, commercial greenhouse-growing installation. The facility overall is very well kept and maintained. It’s apparent that a lot of pride has gone into

its construction, continued operation and upkeep. It didn’t take long to see that these growers had thought of everything. This became apparent as we moved past the staff locker rooms and lounge area.

Soon, familiar sights appeared: electronic high-intensity discharge (HID) ballasts on racks connected to relays and breakers. A row of walk-in-sized reservoirs was situated nearby, plumbed to perfection and carefully monitored and measured. At this point, I still hadn’t realized exactly what I was in the middle of yet. Basically, I was staring at a 40-light setup—impressive by most standards in terms of scale, but not exactly enough to put a dent in the needs of patients on a national scale. It was only toward the end of my visit that I realized these were cookie-cutter rooms, though how many I honestly couldn’t say—first one, then another, then another, then another ... you get the idea. Okay, so a facility like that could definitely supply a portion of Canada’s medical cannabis needs.

Indoor Trees

At this point, we weren’t very far on our walk, and it was time to have a look inside one of the rooms. My jaw dropped when the door opened and I saw a grove of indoor Kush trees. Yes, I mean *trees*! These Kush plants were easily 12 feet higher than the 20-gallon pots they’d been planted in.

Normally, when you see tall plants indoors, a lot of the bottom shoots have been stripped off because the lower part of the plant tends not to produce as well inside. That was not the case here: These plants had branches top to bottom and were covered in solid, sticky buds that were very consistent in quality. Even the lower buds were rock-like in their density.

Another thing that was very different was the lack of foliage—basically, they looked like well-branched bud plants with very little leaf. I learned that these growers are achieving almost 30% more yield from Kush strains like the OG by performing a complete leaf strip at about the fourth week of flowering. While it seems a shame to strip one of these beauties down to sticks and budding sites, this is an instance where tough love really pays off.

After the leaf pull, the plants are fed a special recovery solution that contains vitamins and trace elements. This seems like a prudent practice, given the level of trauma that the plants endure; yet they produce considerably more by doing so, according to these highly skilled growers.

The master grower discussing the technique has observed that the leaf strip makes a very big difference in the yields of Kush plants, although it can have a detrimental effect on more *sativa*-dominant strains that have less foliage and are just more sensitive overall. This is part of the reason why the lower buds on these giant indoor Kush plants are of as high a quality as the rest: There are no leaves to absorb deflected light—it all goes to the buds.

It’s the same thing with water and nutrients. The growers here have observed better-quality buds on higher-yielding plants when their Kush crops can channel their energy into the bud sites rather than spreading it out to the foliage in the latter part of the flowering stage. This is just one of the techniques that these seasoned growers practice here that would surprise even the most savvy cannabis farmer. There are few growers who would risk defoliating their crop in the middle of flowering—however, these guys do, and it pays!

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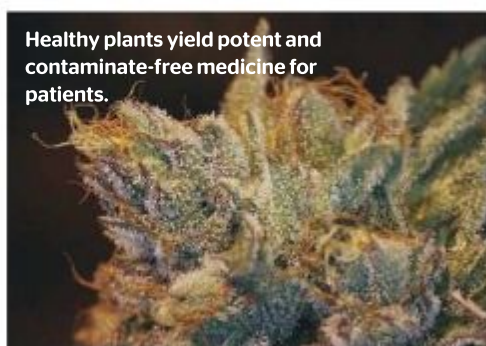
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Most of the water here is recaptured and reused from condensate.

You won't see ducting hanging about, since that can lead to condensation dripping down. All of the serious wiring and ductwork is neatly tucked behind walls and ceilings that still allow for easy access, inspection and servicing. During the construction of a facility like this, it's simply a matter of duplicating rooms and connecting each one to the main vein heading down the header row.

In the cropping system practiced here, plants are provided with carefully created environmental conditions and managed differently, as dictated by the stage of growth. For example, during vegetative growth, you'll find higher humidity levels and moderate temperatures. Late flowering is cool and dry, while early to mid-flowering is warmer and has moderate humidity. Carbon-dioxide enrichment varies with the growth phase, too, and each of the rooms can be optimized independently.

Bucket Size

Another anomaly that stood out was the size of the containers: They were maintaining the biggest indoor medical marijuana plants this journalist has ever seen. These plants finished at well over 12 feet high and delivered huge yields. A lot of moisture is needed to support all of that bud growth, and while a 20-gallon container is big for a 3- or 4-foot plant, it hardly seems like enough to support the types of yields (and harvest quality) that these medical growers can achieve per plant.

Again, there's a purpose here, and the results do the talking. Because the scale of the operation dictates several work crews, there are staff members available 24/7 to tend the plants as needed.

More frequent waterings produce larger yields. The commercial peat mix in use here dries out very quickly given the scale of each plant to its container size and bud count, which means these 20-gallon pots can receive a daily watering. Each room uses about 150 gallons per day, dispensed by hand and watering wand.

Growers who use disproportionately large pots may be starving their plants' root systems of oxygen, as the medium starts off very wet and takes several days to dry. Here, the 20-gallon containers go from saturated to dangerously dry in *hours*.

Pure Water and Climate Control

The water used here is of incredible quality: Even with no reverse-osmosis (RO) filtration system, all of the monitors I observed were showing a read-out of zero. The water pressure was amazing, too—at least 100 pounds per square inch (psi).

Having ample access to high-quality water is essential for an operation of this magnitude, since the crops could perish if the water can't be dispensed fast enough. And while this will never be a problem for most indoor growers, when you're dealing with a medical grow on this scale, with 12-foot-plus plants requiring daily waterings, the demand is high, to say the least. As a result, there are several reservoir filling and mixing stations strategically set up along the central drive-through corridor that connects the many large growrooms making up this 100 percent legit medical marijuana mega-factory.

The rooms (each one housing over 40 1,000-watt lamps) are independently operated, so that different climates, lighting schedules and even lighting intensities can be maintained. The growers also set different humidity levels in each room, depending on the phase of growth and development. Walk into one room and it feels cold; walk into the next and it's hot and humid; walk into another and it's warm and dry.

Closed Environment Agriculture

The facility operates as a CEA (closed environment agriculture) operation, meaning that no outside air is exchanged via vents and intake fans. Rather, the air is "manufactured" using industrial air conditioners, dehumidifiers and so forth. This allows the growers to maintain a consistent environment year-round and has allowed them to improve crop quality, yields and growth rates by being able to dial in the environmental conditions with great accuracy in order to treat each phase of growth distinctly. CEA also helps to restrict the introduction of pests, molds or other airborne hazards coming in or out of the grow, as would be the case with conventional fan-vented indoor operations.

Besides the air treatment, this facility applies a variety of lighting techniques to achieve the kind of results that most medical growers only dream about, let alone on this scale. To spread the light out evenly overhead for the crop, most of the rooms are set up with adjustable horizontal reflectors. While in early veg, the plants may get lit with parabolics, because the growers here have found that the adjustability and quality of light diffusion is unsurpassed—whether they're using metal halide (MH) or high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps, either stationary or on a mover—with this type of reflector.

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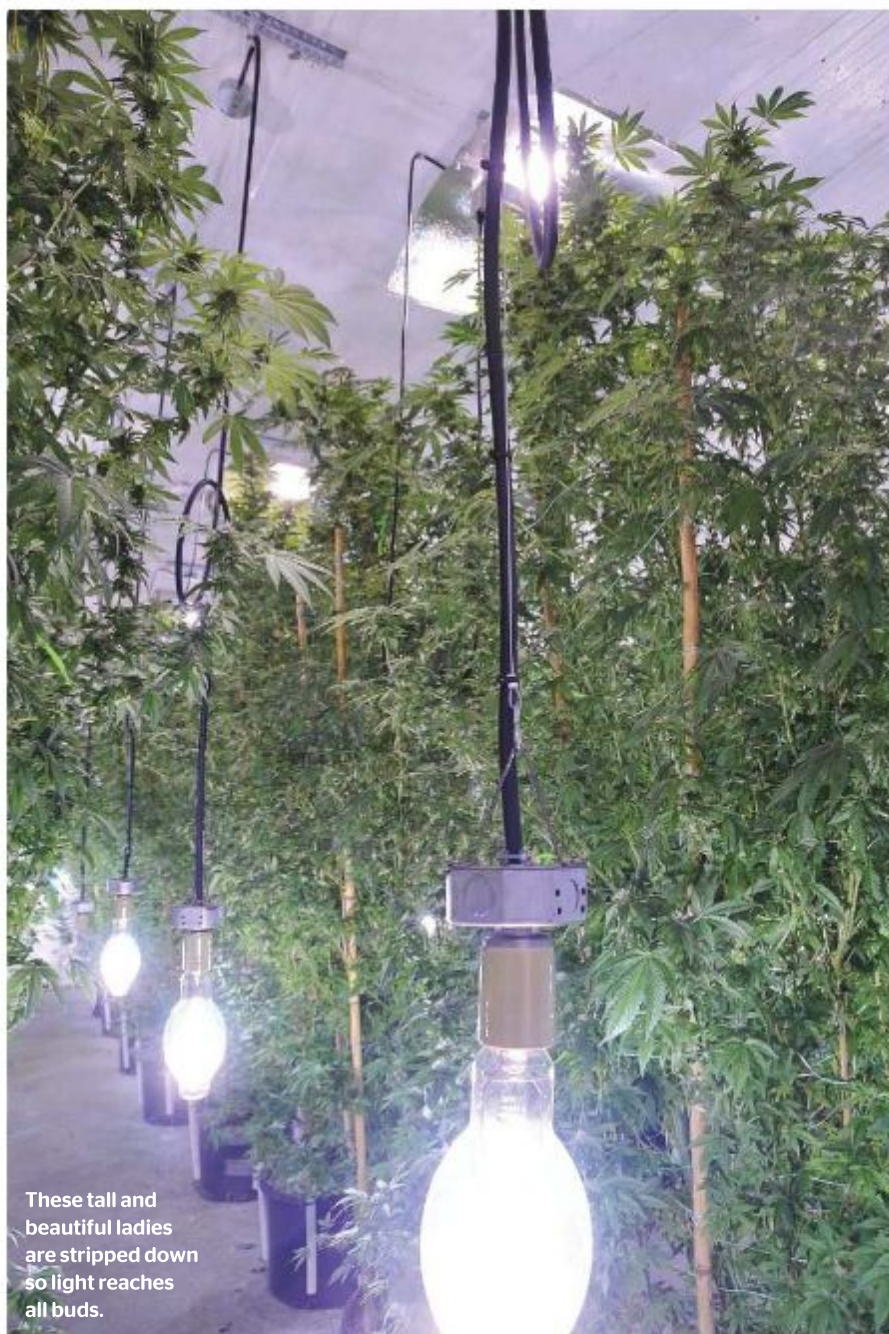
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These tall and beautiful ladies are stripped down so light reaches all buds.



Deceptively simple: Developing rooms like this takes years of experience.

Lighting for Optimal Growth

In the vegetative-growth phase, these growers use MH lighting overhead, and in some phases they also use light movers to track the adjust-a-wing reflectors back and forth over the crop canopy. Slightly higher internodal distances in veg means a more open plant structure later in bloom—important when you want to light 12-foot-plus plants evenly from top to bottom.

As the plants develop, they get potted up gradually into bigger containers. Eventually, they arrive at their final homes: 20-gallon pots with an ingenious support system that uses 12-foot bamboo stakes. Once the plants start getting tall, they're spaced out with some distance between them to encourage good development on all sides, not just the tops. At this point, side lighting is used. Initially, a 1,000-watt MH lamp sidelights each of the plants, which by this stage also have a stationary 1,000-watt lamp overhead. Depending on the stage of growth, the type of lighting will transition as follows:

Veg: MH above and to the side

Early flower: HPS above and MH to the side

Mid to late flowering: HPS above and to the side

And in order to ensure maximum lighting output, the premium horticultural lamps in use here are replaced every six months on average.

Feeding Time

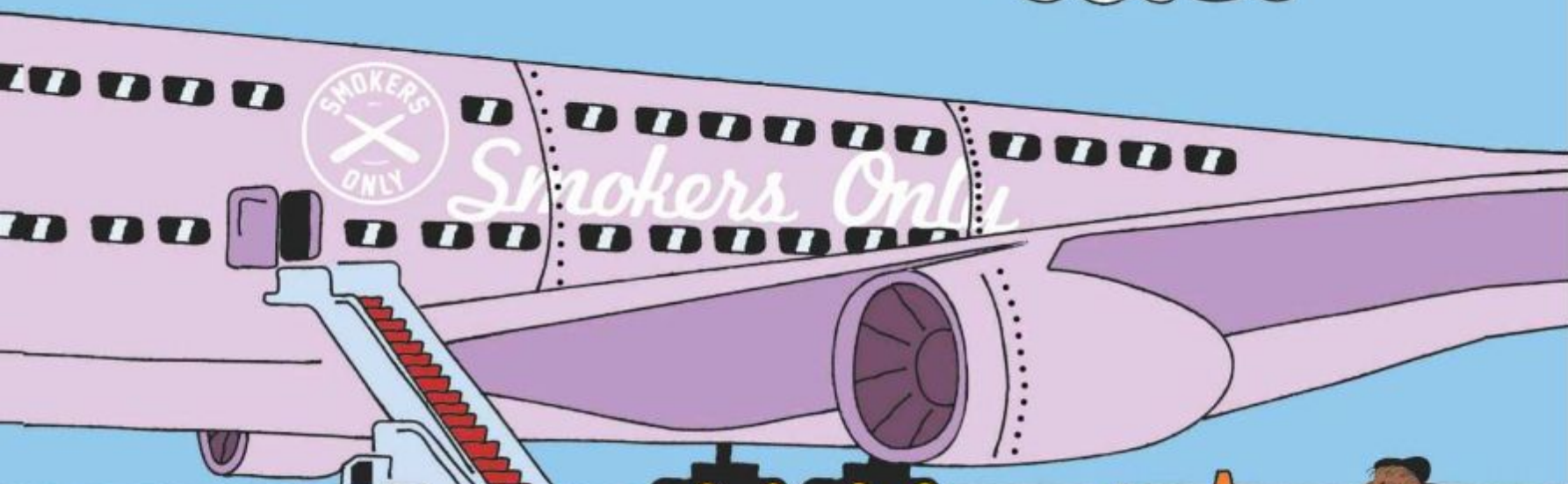
The growers at this facility have experimented over time with plant nutrients via various fertilizers, supplements and feeding programs. Like most growers, they don't like to spend more on their nutrients than necessary, but they've found that it actually pays to use fuller programs and premium products, even if at a significantly higher cost. (The nutrient suppliers must love these guys.) So instead of using a simple three-part base, they've found that they achieve significantly greater yields when adding microbials, vitamin tonics, bloom boosters, etc., which more than justifies the added expense.

Variety selection has been key, too: These growers work with the seed breeders at Monster Breeders Association (MBA) to ensure that what they harvest meets the medical needs of licensed Canadian patients. Their OG Kush strain has won numerous first-place awards and shows excellent (and consistent) cannabinoid content and ratios under analysis.

Besides being a potential medical marijuana factory for servicing Canada's ever-growing list of patients under the new federal guidelines, this facility is a treasure trove of grow knowledge. Constructing and operating places like this one takes expertise, skill and real dedication. It's not something that a commercial agricultural consultant will simply be able to step in and do, while keeping the production costs low and the quality of the medical bud as high. So while Canada's regulations may soon change, the knowledge cultivated in a facility like this is forever. ✨

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ANONYMOUS UNMASKED

Since their inception in 2003 as an online anarchist collective, Anonymous has been grabbing headlines with their cyber attacks on government, corporate and various other targets. But who are they? *High Times* speaks to the greatest hacktivists of our generation.

—By Chris Parker—

For a country built on dissent, US law enforcement sure takes a dim view of Internet activism. As those merry pranksters from Anonymous have discovered, the FBI don't truck no shit: Whether you're a whistle-blowing leaker, a crusading IT wizard or a curious college kid, our post-9/11 government views you just like a shoe bomber and will descend on you with the full force of 100 Justice Department lawyers backed by SWAT teams in riot gear.

Ask Dmitriy Guzner. In the early-morning hours of July 2, 2008, six men in bulletproof vests with light-mounted M-16s pounded on the door of his parents' two-bedroom second-floor apartment in Brooklyn. When the 19-year-old Guzner opened it and the men burst in, he thought it was an exceptionally well-armed and well-coordinated house burglary.

"I thought maybe they had the wrong address," says Guzner, who recalls Joseph Gordon-Levitt circa *Third Rock From the Sun* down to the ponytail. "They seat me on a couch and they're like, 'Do you have any idea why we're here?' And I said, 'No, I have no idea.' They said, 'Do you remember anything about the Church of Scientology?' And I said, 'Oh.' They said, 'Yeah, oh.'"

Five months earlier, on a break from his freshman year at Quinnipiac, Guzner committed an apparently grievous offense: Prompted by a story on *Digg.com*, he participated in a protest against the Church of Scientology organized by Anonymous. Three people showed up.

The next day, Guzner visited a webpage that made him part of a distributed

denial-of-service attack on Scientology's website. DDoS attacks essentially access a site over and over in order to temporarily shut it down. On its own, Guzner's visit was harmless. But in concert with thousands of others, it helped crash the site—something like a cross between a 1960s sit-in and flushing all the dorm toilets at once.

Guzner knew nothing about the mechanics; he just went to a website. He never thought about Anonymous or Scientology again until the cops banged on his door. He was one of two people charged in an attack that undoubtedly involved thousands. That's because the FBI's approach to cyber "crime" has everything to do with intimidation and very little to do with justice.

In the end, he served nine months of a year-and-a-day sentence and has to pay \$37,500 in damages. "I'm moving on with my life," says Guzner, who got married and went on his honeymoon at the conclusion of his two-year probation in May. "Other 18-year-olds will spray-paint buildings, do drugs or beat someone up. I beat up a website."

The Nameless "Threat"

People talk about Anonymous as though it were some kind of organized faction, when it's more like a room full of cats,

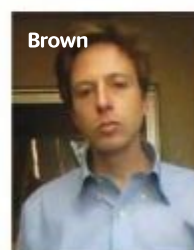
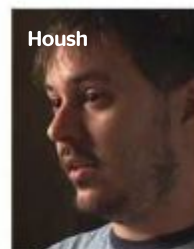
equally defiant in their refusal to be led or leashed. Ideas rise or fall on their ability to garner supporters. Though Anonymous lacks a coherent structure, there is a consistent philosophical undercurrent.

"They rise up most forcefully when it comes to Internet freedoms and technology, particularly technology that is being abused in some way," says filmmaker Brian Knappenberger, who last year released a documentary on the group, *We Are Legion*. "They're sort of protectors of the Internet. This is their territory, and if it's abused, they're personally offended."

Nobody can truly speak for Anonymous because there is no leader or structure. It's like Kickstarter for a passionate mob, with all that that implies.

Anonymous began percolating well before the Scientology attack. White nationalist figure Hal Turner's website was targeted in December 2006, ultimately exposing him as an FBI informant. (That got them off on the right foot.)

The story begins with Gregg Housh. While hardly the only or even necessarily the main provocateur, since Housh was outed by Scientologists during the 2008 protests, he has become, by default, Anonymous's de facto spokesman.





The Boston-area programmer was busted for copyright-oriented computer crime in the 1990s, describing himself as “a no-good criminal, only out for myself.” Prosecutors took seven *years* to try him, which the judge saw as an injustice, even shortening Housh’s eventual sentence to three months in prison. Yet his first 27 days were spent in solitary.

“They put me in a small little box as punishment for my light sentence,” Housh says. “Within a couple weeks, I was already starting to hallucinate. You have no idea what time of day it is, how much you’ve slept. Everything starts to get to you. It really radicalized me in certain ways.”

Risky Business

When Housh got out, he was “bored as hell.” When not programming, he wiled away the hours on 4chan, a bulletin board that is host to an eclectic mix of nerdy techies, confrontational smart-asses and weirdo nonconformists.

They made jokey cat memes (e.g., “I Can Has Cheezburger?”), mislabeled links sending people to a video of Rick Astley singing “Never Gonna Give You Up” (known as “Rickrolling”), and behaved outrageously simply to get a rise out of people (a.k.a. “trolling”). Anything for LOLs or, in their parlance, “Lulz.”

The entire Scientology operation began with a recruitment video featuring Tom Cruise. The movie star explained how, as a Scientologist, “when you drive past an accident, it’s not like anyone else; as you drive past, you know you have to do something about it, because you know you’re the only one that can really help.”

As fast as Scientology’s lawyers could have the video removed, Housh and his mates raced to re-upload it. The battle between quasi-religious control freaks and irreverent mischief makers raged for days: Scientology’s offices found themselves swamped by black faxes, unordered pizzas and Dianetics prank calls.

After a week, media outlets started reporting on it. Someone suggested that Anonymous send out a press release. Instead, they recorded a YouTube video with ominous, computer-synthesized speech over a loop of dark storm clouds. With that, a movement was born. Even so, the group has no formal mission or declared allegiances—only an amorphous, shifting membership, any one of whom could mount their own operation on a whim.

Housh helped create a framework before Anonymous rode off on its own. “We did our little leader-fagging in the



background and didn’t tell anyone,” he recalls (the finer points of “fagging” will be discussed later), “and got it to the point where everyone believed that’s how Anonymous ran, the way you think it runs. Then our little cabal was outed and chased out of existence. And it’s run like that ever since.”

People leveraged what skills they could lend: hacking, organizing, video production. They settled on Guy Fawkes masks as a show of solidarity and to protect everyone’s identity. (It was the only candidate available worldwide, thanks to one *very happy* manufacturer.)

The Scientology protests attracted more than 7,000 people in at least 100 cities. One of the biggest protests was in Los Angeles, where Knappenberger’s interest was first piqued. “It was a very bizarre scene,” he recalls. “Here is a church created by a science-fiction author, being protested by people wearing masks created by a science-fiction author. It was just weird.”

It was also a transformative experience for its members. “We found our people,” Housh says. “And we got to meet them in real life. It was definitely weird to find our people were every race, color, age—it was *everyone*.”

Assange’s Avengers

Though the campaign against Scientology continued, Anonymous largely receded from view for a couple years, other than a February 2010 campaign in Australia to stop an Internet censorship bill. It was the prelude to an even bigger censorship cause: WikiLeaks and Julian Assange.

In December 2010, prompted by turncoat Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman, Amazon booted WikiLeaks from its servers, and Visa, MasterCard, and PayPal stopped processing donations to the group. Within days, the Anonymous chat channel swelled from 70 to 7,000, and DDoS attacks raged. Visa, MasterCard and PayPal’s websites (but *not* their payment processing) were taken down for several hours.

In July 2011, the FBI arrested 14

people in connection with the attacks on PayPal. Like Guzman, they were awakened by the muzzle of an M-16.

“There was a kneejerk response [on the part of the Feds] rather than taking a close look at and understanding what was going on. So, typically, like an 800-pound political gorilla in the china shop, off they went,” says Stanley Cohen, a lawyer for the PayPal 14. “They needed to send a political message—and quick. So they kicked in doors, terrorized children over DDoS, and had no idea what they really had.”

The defendants face as much as 10 years in prison, and PayPal is demanding \$5.6 million in restitution, despite the lack of demonstrable damages.

“If I get pissed at you and drive my car through the plate-glass window at your store, I get arrested for criminal mischief and I get a restitution bill,” Cohen says. “[PayPal] decided they want to replace the plate-glass window with a 70-story brick building. We’re saying, ‘We should bill you fuckers, because we showed you your shit doesn’t work. You should be *hiring* these kids, not prosecuting them.’”

Cohen doesn’t believe the government has a constitutional basis for the arrests because the Anonymous action falls under the category of protected political speech. He compares the protesters to those who tied up lunch counters at Woolworth’s during the civil-rights movement.

Then, on January 2, 2011, when the government of Tunisia blocked WikiLeaks, Anonymous sprang into action, starting a series of “FreedomOps” supporting Arab Spring protestors in Egypt, Syria and elsewhere.

“We didn’t wage a Twitter campaign to call our senator, or get Hillary Clinton to ask Obama to tell [then-Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak to turn his Internet back on. Fuck that. We ran 500 modem lines. We sent fax spam with treatments for tear gas, because the only thing that was working was landlines,” says former Anonymous member Peter Fein. “Just being able to take direct action—that’s what’s so compelling.”

Here We COINTELPRO Again

Everything changed when, in early 2011, HBGary Federal CEO Aaron Burr claimed to have identified the leaders of Anonymous and promised to share this (ultimately dubious) information with the FBI. Pissed at Burr’s braggadocio and perhaps curious, Anonymous breached HBGary’s websites, crashed the servers and liberated over 70,000 emails.



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HBGary Federal is part of the growing crypto-intelligence-industrial complex profiting from the country's post-9/11 insecurities. One of its projects sought to create deeply convincing fake social-media identities that could be coordinated and automated to provide the appearance of support for government policies on foreign message boards. A sister company sold similar services to private industry.

Barrett Brown, a young reporter that Housh had roped into sharing his spokesman role, was the only one willing to pore through those emails. He and his cohorts uncovered a plot hatched by the Bank of America, the US Chamber of Commerce and private security/intelligence companies to undermine WikiLeaks with fraudulent submissions and to attack the reputations of its supporters, such as prominent *Salon* and *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald.

Other emails proposed infiltrating unions and liberal groups for the Chamber, much like the bad old days of J. Edgar Hoover. From 1956 to '71, the FBI targeted nonviolent political groups for surveillance, infiltration and disruption under a program known as COINTELPRO.

"HBGary was a big game-changer for Anonymous," says Housh. "It was just supposed to get revenge on an idiot, but it turned into something else based on the material in those emails."

High Price for a Few Lulz

Anonymous has long demonstrated a transgressive, goading, impertinent streak. This freewheeling rebellious spirit attracts many of the "lulz-fags." (Everyone on the chat channel is derided as a "fag" of some sort—old-fags, new-fags, journo-fags, leader-fags and, in the case of Housh, who talks to reporters, name-fag.)

Most of the lulz-fags were old-school members of 4chan who resented the influx of moral-fags, their term for these new activist types. "They were sick of all these new people," Housh recalls. "They said we needed to stop ruining their bad name."

The complainants inaugurated a splinter group, LulzSec. Beginning in April 2011 and initially going by the name Internet Feds, they hacked *Fox.com*, altering several employees' LinkedIn profiles and dumping information on 73,000 *X-Factor* contestants.

They also hacked PBS, posting a story claiming that Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur were still alive and living in New Zealand. Other targets included Eve Online, the Irish political party Fine Gael and Sony Pictures. Unlike Anonymous, LulzSec didn't like to play nice. Its spree of hacking and defacing websites suggested a reckless, drunken teenage joyride in a stolen vehicle.

"I wouldn't use the term 'joyride,'" says Reynaldo Rivera, the 21-year-old charged in

the Sony Pictures hack. "I'd be lying if I said it wasn't exciting. As a kid, if you're with computers, you think it'd be really cool to be a super-cool hacker, and then you're like, 'Oh, fuck—this was a terrible idea.' But there's a point where you're past the point of no return."

Rivera grew up in San Antonio, TX, where he developed a love of video games and initially set out to become a programmer before becoming fascinated with network security. He grew up hearing that every "white hat" security expert began as a "black hat" hacker. He wanted to gain that knowledge for himself.

Then, while attending the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, AZ, Rivera met Cody Kretsinger, who was a few years older. Kretsinger convinced Rivera to join in LulzSec's antics, which were being directed by a hacker named Hector Xavier Monsegur, better known by the handle Sabu.

"I was 18, a young kid. I was naïve—I fully admit that. He was older and knew a helluva lot more than I did," Rivera says. "When your friend asks you to do something, saying he needs your help, and he offers, 'You want to be as good as me? This is the way to do it,' younger self is more than accepting of those terms. Younger stupid self is happy to oblige."

Rivera will have time to think about it when he starts his year-and-a-day sentence, serves over 1,000 hours of community service, and begins paying off \$600,000 in restitution.

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“Sony—largely to appease people and look after their stock price—got two top-of-the-line cyber-security firms to do a top-to-bottom on their network to the tune of \$605,000,” says Rivera’s lawyer, Jay Leiderman. “Sometimes the damages are negotiable. In Rivera’s case, [the response] was, ‘We’re not doing anything on damages.’ You can argue that they’re not legit, but the way the law is written, the government is going to impose those damages—which is kind of crazy.”

The FBI’s Hacker Hive

In June 2011, LulzSec morphed into AntiSec under the leadership of Monsegur/Sabu. Most suspect it was an FBI operation from the jump, as Monsegur’s arrest roughly coincided with AntiSec’s appearance. An unemployed 27-year-old foster father to his aunt’s two girls, Monsegur rolled over faster than the Pillsbury Doughboy.

At the FBI’s bidding, Monsegur incited his 175,000-plus Twitter followers to hack foreign government websites, private security firms and police departments. There weren’t many major revelations, just names and emails.

Then, in December, LulzSec hacked the

global intelligence company Stratfor. (Some smell a setup.) Monsegur offered hacker Jeremy Hammond an FBI server on which to store the data. Within the data dump was information on 5,000 credit cards. Brown, seeking another scoop, copied the link onto a page for his crowdsourced investigative journalism site, Project PM.

Brown’s copying of that link—to stolen credit cards—is the basis for much of the government’s case. He’s not accused of hacking anything or using the cards himself. Brown, who is facing a maximum of 105 years in prison, was the subject of a *Rolling Stone* profile in September 2013.

Soon thereafter, the courts slapped a gag order on him and his lawyers. The FBI doesn’t need popular sympathy undermining what already looks like a rickety case against a journalist supposedly protected by the First Amendment.

Meanwhile, Hammond pleaded guilty in May. He’s facing a 10-year sentence after being convicted in 2006 of hacking a group aggressively targeting anti-Iraq War activists. In a statement released from behind bars, Hammond accuses the FBI of duping hackers into doing what they legally couldn’t: “Why was the United States using us to infiltrate the private networks of foreign governments? What are they doing with the information we stole? And will anyone in

our government ever be held accountable for these crimes?”

Housh believes that Hammond is bearing the brunt of Monsegur’s failed attempt to entrap WikiLeaks’ Julian Assange with the Stratfor hack.

“Assange was actually thinking about paying for [the Stratfor data], but he was kind of confused about why Sabu wanted money,” Housh says. “When the other hackers who had actually done the hacks, like Jeremy, heard that Sabu had asked for money for this stuff, they said ‘What the hell?’ and just sent the dump over to Assange.”

In March 2012, less than a week after Assange posted the material on WikiLeaks, the FBI finally arrested Hammond and his mates. Just two weeks earlier, the NSA had claimed that within a few years, Anonymous would be capable of shutting down the power grid. Meanwhile, FBI director Robert Mueller was on Capitol Hill, asking for more money to combat the very hacker “threat” his agency had helped to create.

“People in this business are going to characterize hacktivists as a threat. If you don’t have a threat, you don’t get money,” says Northwestern University professor Peter Ludlow. “The only way they can get money is if they can convince the government and private business that we are under threat. Otherwise, it all goes away.”

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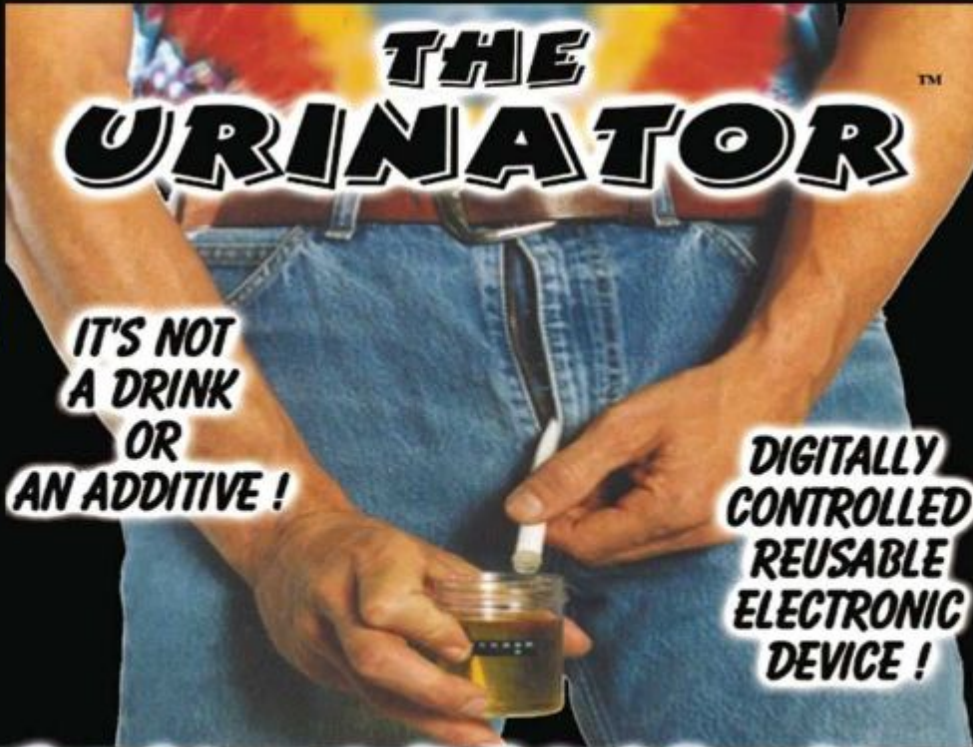
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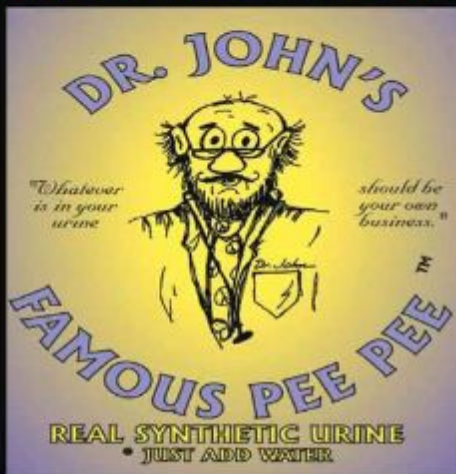
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Never Say Die

In August 2013, Austin P. Berglas, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's cyber division, told the *Huffington Post* that Anonymous had been dismantled. "The movement is still there, and they're still yakking on Twitter and posting things," Berglas said. "But you don't hear about these guys coming forward with those large breaches."

To a limited extent, he's right. A lot of security-busting skill was lost between those members who were captured and those that subsequently scattered. But hacking was just one of Anonymous's skills, as illustrated by its Steubenville, OH, operation.

The case involved a 16-year-old girl raped at a drunken house party by two football players from Steubenville High School. The victim had pictures taken of her while passed out and was ridiculed mercilessly on social media afterwards by the assailants' friends.

In December, Michelle McKee, a 50-year-old activist from Washington State, brought the attack to the attention of Deric Lostutter, a self-taught Winchester, KY, computer enthusiast, rapper and child of domestic abuse. Though his mother hung with bikers, Lostutter says he grew up nerdy until he saw his mom's boyfriend beating her.



"I seen that shit, something inside of me snapped, and I turned into the person I am now," he adds. "I haven't been able to shake it off"

Lostutter only joined Anonymous in September 2012, after seeing *We Are Legion*. He took part in Operation Westboro,

which sought to discourage members of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church from picketing the Sandy Hook shooting funerals in Newtown, CT, then started his own group KnightSec, an answer to AntiSec.

"Everybody paints vigilantes as a bad thing, but that was a good thing back in the western days," Lostutter asserts between sips of bourbon. "They were the guys who caught the people the police didn't go after. Except everybody's a vigilante, and they don't realize it. It's called doing the right fucking thing. If I see you punching your kid in the face in the parking lot at Walmart, I'm going to vigilante your ass up and down that parking lot."

Lostutter was the Steubenville op's point person, bringing attention to the case and disseminating leaked/hacked photos and Michael Nodianos' damning voicemail in which he ridiculed the victim. For his efforts, Lostutter has had his computer and gaming

equipment seized by the FBI during the requisite visit from the SWAT team.

"They pulled me out and said, 'We're looking for anti-American propaganda,'" Lostutter recalls. "I was like, 'You're in Kentucky! I live on a farm and drink Bud Light!'"

Lostutter's girlfriend kicked him out and when Amazon discovered who he was, he lost his new warehouse job. But he was ultimately vindicated. Not only were two Steubenville football players convicted of rape, but in the fall, an Ohio grand jury indicted six adults including Steubenville City Schools Superintendent Michael McVey on felony counts of obstruction of justice and tampering with evidence. Some of the charges are related to a previously unreported alleged rape and cover-up four months prior by the same group of friends partying at the football coach's house while he was out of town.

Even so, Internet activists are only the latest political casualties in the government's long-running spin-off of *Who's the Boss?* "When you break the law, there should be some consequences," says Gabriella Coleman, a McGill University professor and chief scholar on Anonymous. "But to really hammer the individuals for political action when the damage to these companies is nonexistent? It's just a mockery of the democratic process and the right of people to protest." ✨

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INTERVIEW & PHOTOS BY
DAN SKYE

SOMA

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

JUST BEFORE HE WON THE CANNABIS CUP FOR BEST HYBRID WITH HIS EXQUISITE SOMARI, WE SAT DOWN WITH SOMA—THE DREADLOCKED AMERICAN EXPATRIATE WHO HAS GUIDED HIS COMPANY, SOMA’S SACRED SEEDS, TO THE TOP OF THE INDUSTRY—IN HIS AMSTERDAM HOME. SOMA’S A POPULAR, FRIENDLY FIGURE IN THESE PARTS, ONE WHO EVINCES A DEEP PASSION FOR THE PLANT AND STANDS FIRM AGAINST THE FORCES OF OPPRESSION. HE’S A VERITABLE PREACHER, SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF CANNABIS VIA HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING HIS RECOVERY FROM OPEN-HEART SURGERY USING MEDICAL MARIJUANA EXCLUSIVELY. AS HE PUTS IT, PEOPLE THINK OF HIM AS A “CANNABIS SHAMAN” AND A “CANNABIS WITCH DOCTOR,” BECAUSE HE’S CONVINCED THAT THE PLANT CAN TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS AND, IN TURN, THE WORLD.

SOMA SAT DOWN WITH US AMID HIS 13 PET CATS—AND AN EXPANSIVE COLLECTION OF CRYSTALS—TO TALK ABOUT HIS CANNABIS JOURNEY.

So where does your story begin?

I was born in Pittsburgh four years after World War II ended. My mother and father divorced when I was about a year old. We moved to New York City and moved in with my grandmother. Even though I was born in Pennsylvania, I became a New Yorker pretty fast. Growing up in New York City is really basic training for going around the planet.

Were you familiar with cannabis at all growing up?

I was such a nerd at 17 ... I didn’t know what the heck I wanted to do. I was so straight, I actually joined the Air Force at 17, just before I finished high school. I thought, “What the heck? I don’t want to go to college. I’ll join the Air Force and become James Bond.” Boy, I was *so* lucky—I failed the physical and they didn’t let me in.

What was your problem?

I had orthostatic

albuminuria, which can lead to kidney disease, which I’ve never had. I was bummed, but when it came time for me to get drafted, I was exempt. I started working at IBM on Madison Avenue, wearing a suit and tie in the mailroom. It’s when I first got turned on to cannabis. I bought 15 joints off this guy. It instantly started changing my consciousness. I started going to work so stoned that I was called into the office and given all this shit about my image. And I said, “Look, I quit.”

I started driving a taxi in New York City. I could have my hair as long as I wanted. I used to go to LaGuardia Airport in the taxi-pickup line and smoke a joint of this Vietnamese weed that my stepbrothers brought back from Vietnam. It was so strong that, by the time I picked up a passenger, I’d sometimes forget what address I was told.

So when did cannabis become your life’s work?

I loved cannabis right away. I started to experience the psychedelic nature of it; it also turned me into a vegetarian. So, at 21, I moved to Vermont and opened up an organic natural-foods bakery and restaurant. It was hard making money, but I’d started growing cannabis outdoors. I had these seeds from Colombia, which were heavy *sativa*. I was trying to grow them in the northern climate of Vermont. I didn’t know what I was doing, and they never would have finished, but I ended up getting busted. I learned that if you grow this beautiful plant, the cops will come and take it away if they get the chance—even in a faraway place. I got a year of probation.

Then, in 1974, I moved to Gainesville, FL, where I came across the famous Gainesville Green, one of the first home-grown strains that didn’t come

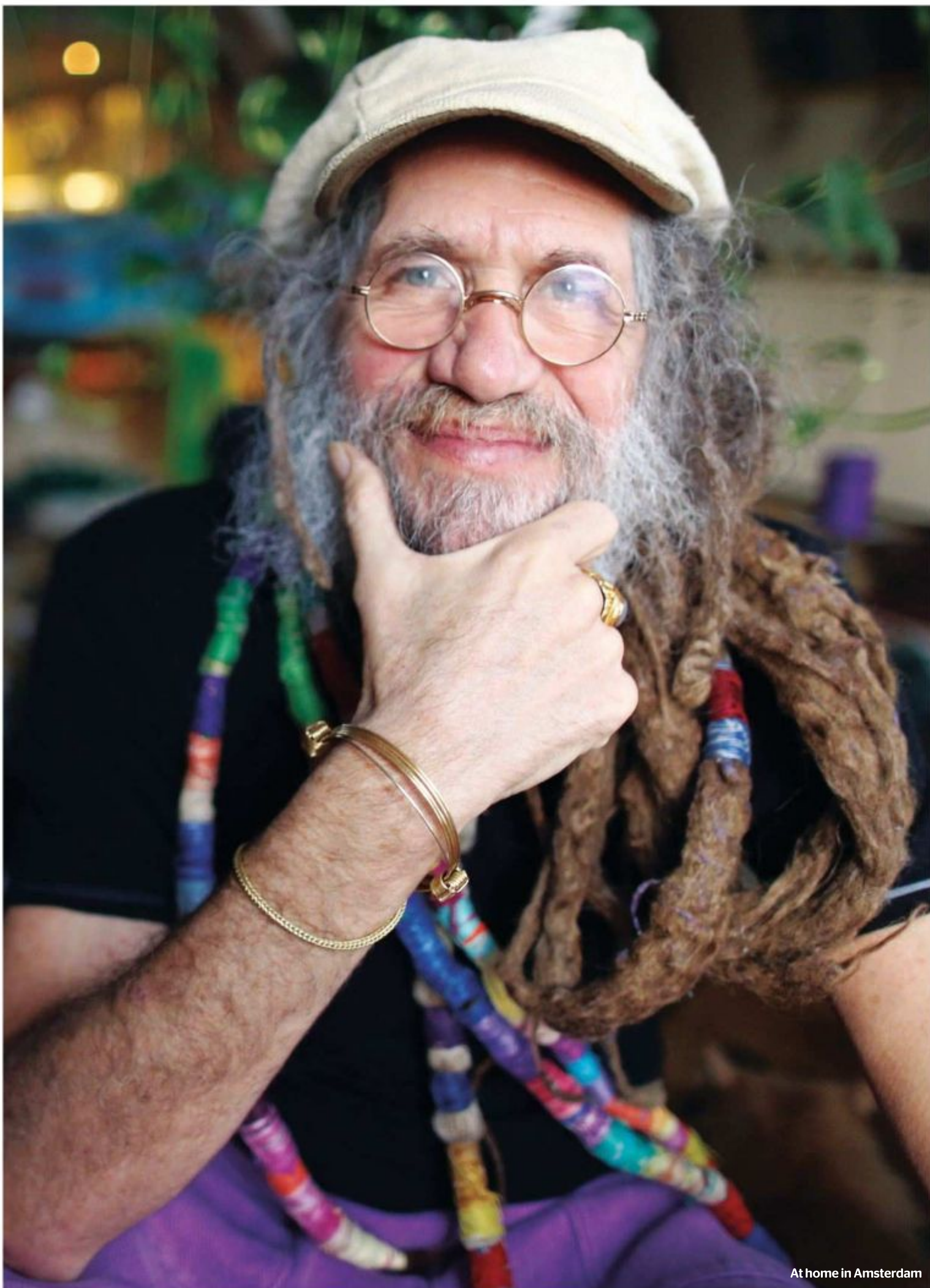
from Mexico or Colombia or Afghanistan or Nepal—it was made in America. After smoking it, I got totally inspired to start growing my own. I had some great seeds from some Southeast Asian Thai weed, and I had great seeds from a pure Afghani strain, so I got this amazing Afghani-Asian cross.

Did you remain arrest-free?

No, no—I got arrested in 1983 and went to prison for trafficking cocaine and heroin. Looking back, it seems like some other person or some other lifetime. I totally got lost; once I tried it enough, I got hooked. My daughter got taken away from me by her mother. I was in great emotional distress and portrayed as a bad father. I did end up actually winning that case, but during this one period when I hadn’t seen my daughter for four years, I totally got depressed. I ended up going to prison for two and a half years, losing my first set of dreadlocks.

How would you describe that experience?

An amazing learning experience ... not one I’d want to repeat, though. I learned lessons, not just about survival, but about tact. Because if you use the wrong tactic or don’t use tact, you’re fucked. You’re in there with all these weightlifters. You have to use the weight of your brain. It taught me to use my smarts in a more fine-tuned way than I ever knew.



At home in Amsterdam

What did you do after prison?

I got out in 1985, but it was hard to be a cannabis person in Florida. People I knew in Oregon were showing me their cannabis. In most states, cannabis was a felony, but in Oregon, it was a misdemeanor. So I went to misdemeanor-land and started a hemp store—one of the very first.

I met Jack Herer in 1990, and he turned me on to *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* [Herer's legendary hemp bible]. He changed me. In fact, a lot of times when I speak—now that he's gone—I feel like he's speaking through me. I feel like he uses me sometimes as a vehicle to speak through.

Tell us about your first trip to Amsterdam.

I first came here in 1994. I was a celebrity judge at my first Cannabis Cup. I was given 14 different kinds of cannabis to judge. Every single strain had seeds in those days—they were from seed companies, and the buds that you smoked came with seeds. I ended up with like 200 seeds from those 14 strains. I labeled them carefully and smuggled them back to America and planted them all. I had my own genetics and started mixing the Amsterdam genetics with my own. I ended up with 10,000 seeds and all of these new crosses. Before I knew it, I had 51 different mother plants. I thought I was in paradise. So, in 1996, I decided to move to Amsterdam.

Why?

I'd been busted again, but I jumped probation. I was on three-year probation; I did two years, eight months, but I split. The arrest was for growing, though now it's legal to grow [medical] cannabis in Oregon. I didn't want to be a target in this war on cannabis any longer. So I left for a place where I could work with this plant freely.



Delivering a cultivation lecture at the 26th Cannabis Cup.

"Every single strain had seeds in those days—they were from seed companies, and the buds that you smoked came with seeds. I ended up with like 200 seeds from those 14 strains."

How did things go?

The Dutch gave me a lot of help and advice. I had 747 plants, but I got busted there too. I was in Serious Seeds' old growroom, which I took over. The cops came looking for the Serious Seeds guys, not me. I got caught because the place was hot when I moved in.

What happened?

I lost all the plants, but because of the way they cut them down, I was able to bring 22 of my original 51 back to life. They chopped the plants but left a few bottom branches. I lost 29 strains. It was heartbreaking because I didn't yet have seeds. The paradise that I thought I'd stepped into wasn't so cannabis-friendly after all.

Believe it or not, though, I was only in jail for six hours—and when I got out, I started over again with those 22. I got new lights, new everything, and started over in the exact same spot. That's where I had my breeding operation. I started winning prizes in 1999, and I grew there until 2001. That's when I moved my operation to my home.

Any problems with the law since then?

I got busted here in 2004 when I had 11 really big plants on my roof. It was a freak situation: I was in Spain and, while I was there, somebody committed suicide in Amsterdam by jumping off the roof of the French Embassy. I had people watching the house—it was a nice day in September, and they decided to go out and sit on the roof. The neighbors saw them and thought somebody else was going to jump, so they called the suicide squad. My friends had gone back inside, but the next thing you know, the police were on my roof and found these 11 plants. They came in, started searching and found 11 kilos, plus weed drying from the roof, and busted the place.

I assumed all the blame. I came back from Spain two weeks later and voluntarily turned myself in. My lawyer said they'd keep me for six hours, then let me go. I brought my cannabis medicine with me and smoked a big, fat joint just before I turned myself in. I took a big puff, walked into the police station and let it out—which they didn't like.

I was in a holding cell for six hours; then they

interrogated me and held me for four days.

But in those four days, I was the very first person in Holland to have medicinal cannabis given to him in jail. They didn't know what the fuck to do: You're not allowed to smoke tobacco [in jail], and they wouldn't let me smoke my cannabis. Instead, they made me ingest it. So I ended up getting Earl Grey tea and drinking cannabis tea for four days while there. For the first time in my life, I stayed stoned in jail continually.

So what happened?

In court, I said that the *apothek* [Dutch pharmacy] weed sucks. It's the legal—quote-unquote—cannabis here, the stuff you don't get busted for. It's not organic; it's grown hydroponically with chemicals, using pesticides—and they irradiate it on top of that. Not only isn't it helpful, it's actually *harmful*.

In court, I said I'm pleading not guilty. They threatened me with eight months in jail, but I said I'm growing my own organic medicine because it's better. I brought in a Dutch doctor and expert witnesses who were pro-cannabis, which blew the prosecuting attorney away. He was tongue-tied whenever he had to say something, because my lawyer and witnesses piled fact upon fact upon fact. I took the case to the next higher court, just beneath the Dutch Supreme Court, and was found guilty. However, according to Dutch law, [if I appealed the case and won,] a "not guilty" verdict means the government would have to pay my lawyer's fees for the entire case—about 50,000 euros. So they immediately pardoned me ... no sentence, no penalty.

How did that make you feel?

Great! I was fighting for a cause. I want all of us to get pardoned for this shit. There is no crime.



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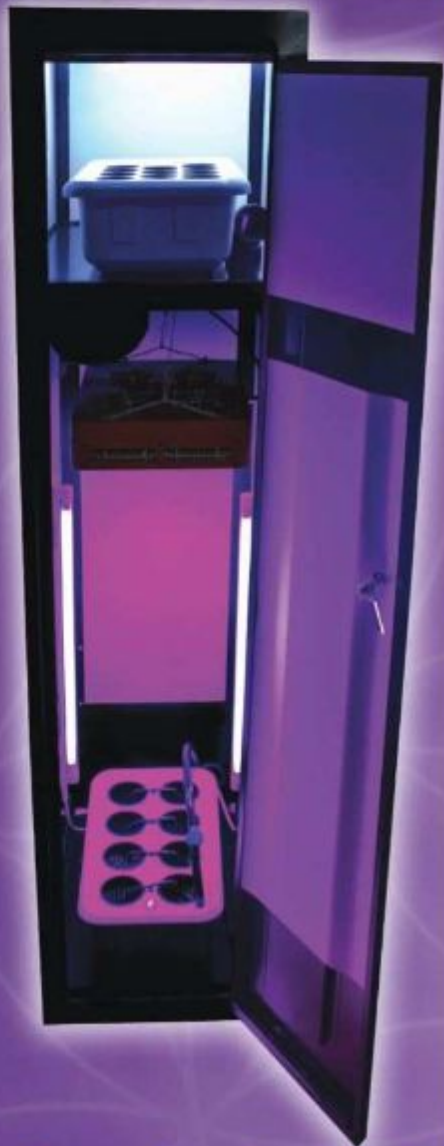
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Why do you think you've become a cannabis celebrity?

I'm on the front lines. I know cannabis is great, capable of healing at least half of the shit that's wrong on this planet. Research is blowing every lie out of the water. There won't be a cannabis lie able to stand within the next two years.

When I travel, I never say no to a picture. I could be tired or in a bad mood, but I always say yes. It's one of my favorite things, because people write me later on Facebook and tell me: "I put the picture up on my refrigerator; I look at it every day." It's amazing. They see me as a cannabis shaman, cannabis teacher, cannabis witch doctor. I love this plant. I love studying it from the roots up—every aspect of it. I've been a cannabis mentor for many people who are now successful seed-company people—some even more successful than me. That's how it is in life: The younger generation usually passes the older generation in certain things.

Tell me about the strains you're proudest of.

Well, New York City Diesel—I love it. I named it "New York City Diesel" right after 9/11, because I'm a New Yorker and I felt so bad about what happened. I wanted New York to have a strain name.

When it's done right—not picked early and done organically—it tastes and smells just like ripe red grapefruits.

Lavender is unique like Diesel, but it's much more couch-locky. Lavender's good for a nighttime high, good to go to sleep on.

What about this year's Cannabis Cup?

I'm entering Amnesia



Soma smokes up.

"If we learn to do everyday things from the heart with feeling, with passion and care, we connect with spirit."

Haze, which won the Cup last year for Best *Sativa*. It's better than last year's—so beautiful. I'm also entering the SoG Kush, one of my newest *indicas*. It's a mixture of OG Kush, LA Confidential and Trainwreck. Then there's Somari, a combination of New York City Diesel, Buddha's Sister and Kushadelic. It's very close to New York City Diesel, but faster-flowering and a harder bud—not an airy bud.

You've always emphasized the spiritual aspects of cannabis.

We're most spiritual as humans when we do things from the heart. If we learn to do everyday things from the heart with feeling, with passion and care, we connect with spirit. That's where real spirit resides—in the heart vibe, in that heart space. Once you start operating from that heart space, a spiritual path starts to unfold in front of you.

What do you mean by "spirit?"

Divine energy, higher energy,

angelic energy. I truly believe that all of us are angels. But we're in this state of amnesia. For some reason, some learning lesson, we angels chose to incarnate in this third-dimensional realm, where life is very dense. We struggle to survive, fight with all these dichotomies—all these yins and yangs. We have to figure out what's really right, what's wrong, what's true, what's false. We have to get through it in a successful way.

How does cannabis enhance our spiritual nature?

Cannabis is a way for people to come together and share. Community starts to happen by sharing ideas, by sharing material goods, by sharing ways of thought. And when communities form, you get group energy going. And once you get it going on a psychoactive, psychedelic level, you see that divine energy really exists; telepathy exists. You see the interconnectedness of life.

Cannabis takes you on a spiritual path that's beyond the Bible, beyond the Koran, beyond Buddhist teachings. Cannabis is something that continually makes your brain expand.

Last question: Has life been good in Holland?

I gotta use a Dutch word here, because this place really has *gezellig*. It's my favorite Dutch word—it means "the warmest, best vibe." That's what I feel now. I'm a grandfather of three. It's really unbelievable being a grandfather and becoming a new pop again.

I actually forgot just how much fun babies are, what an inspiration they are, how young they actually make you feel—even when you're an old-timer like me. ✨

Watch Bobby Black interview Soma and Arjan at hightimes.com/somaandaryan





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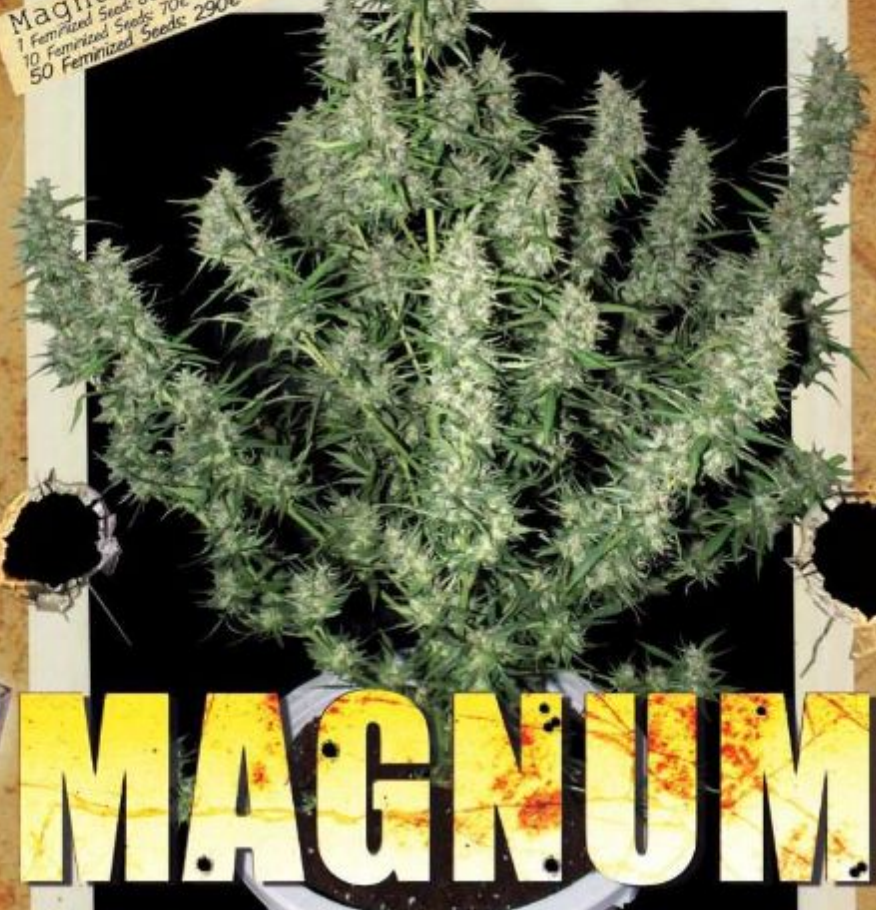


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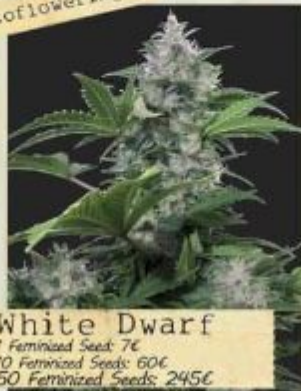
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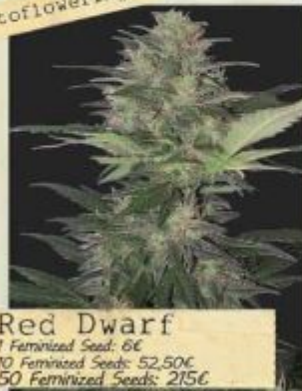
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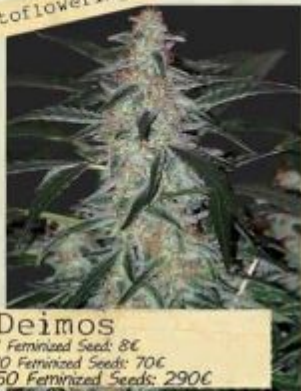
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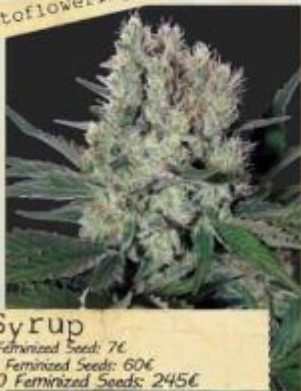
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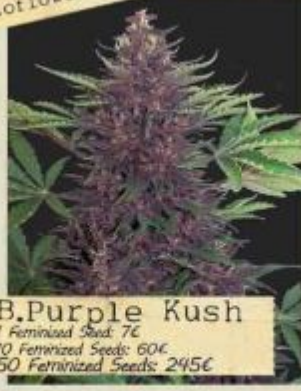
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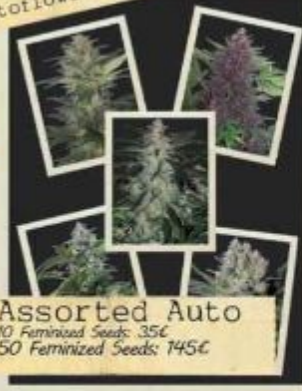
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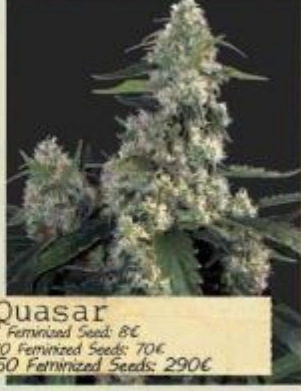
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Cultivation Clinic

The pros and cons of sexual reproduction.



Greetings, amigos! Welcome to *High Times'* newest column, dedicated to exploring the latest trends in cannabis seeds and strains.

To kick off our first-ever edition of "Cultivation Clinic," I figured we'd start with the question that comes to everyone's mind these days when discussing the first step in growing cannabis: Should I grow from seed or clone?

Obviously, there are pros and cons in choosing either approach. However, both with cloning, known scientifically as *asexual reproduction*, and seed propagation, or *sexual reproduction*, there are a few preliminary factors to consider before deciding which option is best for you.

For starters, what many people fail to consider is the simple fact that there isn't always a choice. If a grower wishes to cultivate a garden of his or her favorite strain, but that strain is available in clone-only form, the question of which is better becomes moot.

If we decide to go with seeds, on the other hand, the question is further complicated by the origin of the seeds in question. People often forget that there's a big difference between true-breeding, stabilized genetics and first-run F1 hybrids. (If some of this is already a bit too intense for you, we urge you to keep reading each month, as this column will eventually answer all of your questions regarding genetics, breeding and seeds—but for this month's column, we need to start at the very beginning.)

So with those two considerations duly noted, let's move to a hypothetical situation that allows us to answer the simple question of which propagation method is better. Let us assume that our hypothetical grower can obtain any strain he or she wants in seed form and that the seeds are true-breeding, meaning the line is inbred (IBL) and stable in nearly all of its traits and will therefore "breed true" in the offspring. Let us also assume that the clone option involves using a cutting from a mother plant that is also stable and has been spawned from a true-breeding seed herself.



In today's age of medical marijuana, cloning has become all the rage. But we should not forget the importance of seed propagation and production.

With all things now being equal, the advantages of each approach are easier to consider. The clone's inherent advantage is that she can offer a shorter grow cycle, as seed germination generally requires anywhere from five to 10 days, not to mention that clones also tend to flower more quickly than plants propagated from seed. Other factors in favor of cloning include zero variation from the parent plant and zero hassle in sexing plants, since they are all uniform and no guesswork is required.

You may be thinking that all sounds pretty good, so why even bother with seeds? Well, the truth is that many commercial growers choose cloning for these very reasons (as well as the fact that they're growing more for yield than quality). But after a few generations of cloning from the same mother—or, even worse, from clone mothers—something known as *genetic drift* starts to set in, an evolutionary condition that destabilizes the genetic equilibrium of a population and mutates a genotype over time.

When growing from seed, the inherent advantage is that the exact opposite occurs. This is known as *heterosis*, or “hybrid vigor,” and it is why the quality of flowers produced from seeds will almost always be superior to those from a clone. Seeds, especially those from a new hybridization of differing parents, will always exemplify the most vigorous qualities of those gene sets. This means if the selection of parents is done properly, the flowers produced from seed should have peak potency, flavor, aroma and any other desired characteristics the parents were selected for. This is why, whenever stable seeds are available, most competitors in our Cannabis Cups prefer to enter buds grown from seed versus those grown from clone.

Unfortunately, in this day and age of commercialized cloning and feminized seeds, growing popular strains from seeds is easier said than done. That’s why you should stay tuned for next month’s column, in which we’ll be discussing methods for tackling this very problem and reinvigorating our cannabis-seed gene pool. *Nico Escandido*

Strain of the Month: Dieseltonic



Fresh off a third-place finish in the hybrids category at the 2013 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, Dieseltonic is one of the first true hybrid strains to bring both recreational and medicinal value to the market in one flower. Typically, a strain is either high in THC (and wins a Cannabis Cup) or high in CBD (and wins a CBD Award), but it’s rare to find a strain that has a high enough content in both to be effective for patients and recreational users.

Released in seed form by Resin Seeds out of Barcelona, Spain, the Dieseltonic seed line can still vary widely in CBD production, with lab tests ranging from 8 to 15 percent CBD. The highest CBD level ever recorded at a Cannabis Cup is 19 percent, and that was from a Cannatonic phenotype (one of the parents of the Dieseltonic). In terms of THC, the Dieseltonic hit 15 percent, and further breeding projects are underway at Resin Seeds—and around the world—to achieve a 1:1 THC-to-CBD ratio, which doctors and scientists believe will create the most potent medicinal effects for patients.



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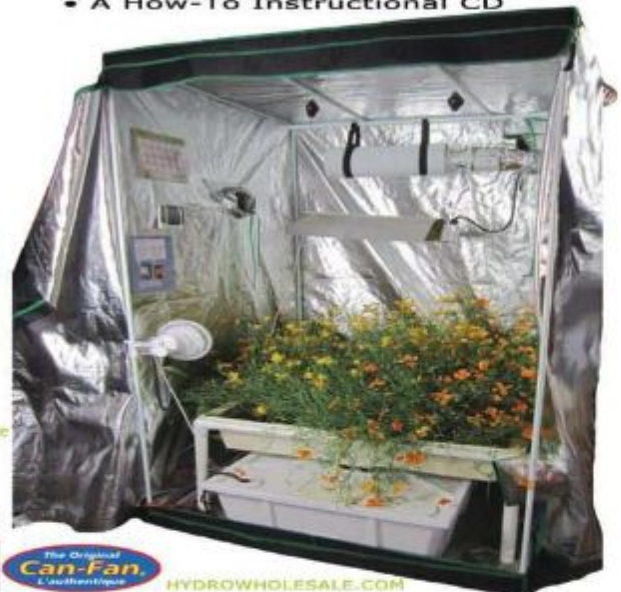
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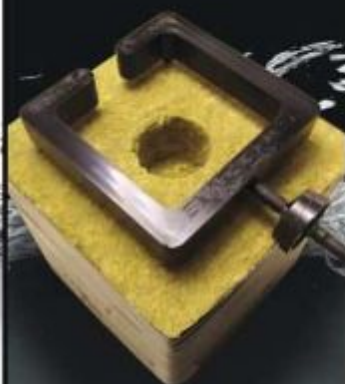
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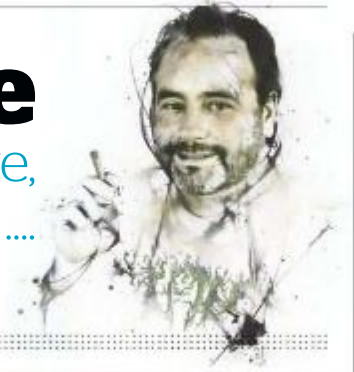
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Stakes prop up branches closer to their light source and reflective material increases light impact.

SUBJECT: **Plant Props**

FROM: **Mac in Scotland**

🌱 Are there any other good ways to prop up my plants apart from ScrOG, or is that the best method? I'm growing in soilless mix and my plants have multiple colas (tops), so I'm not too sure about using canes or where exactly to place them if they're an option. Please help!

Dear Mac,
"Screen of green," or ScrOG, is an excellent option for trellising your plants, but

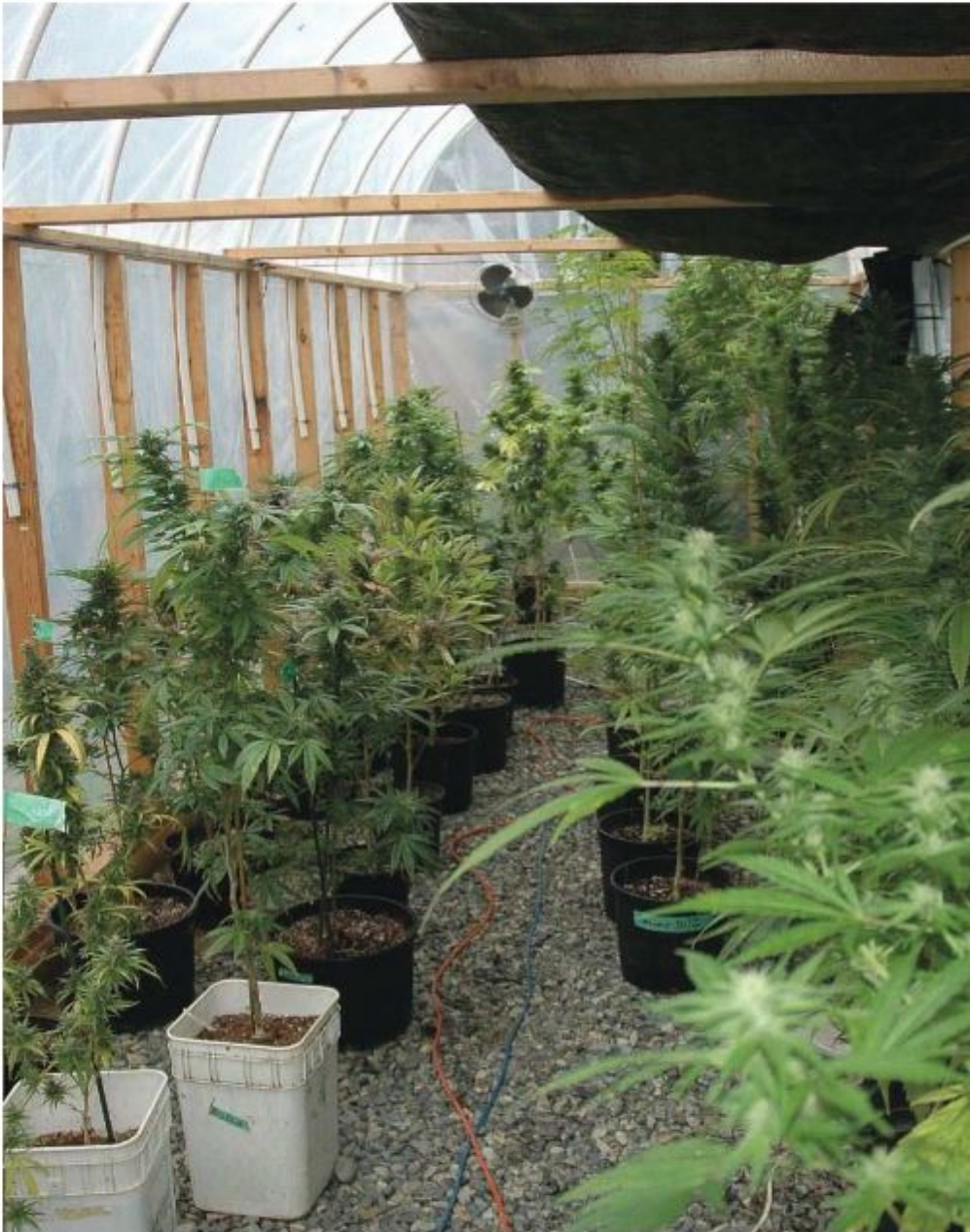
there are several others. When ScrOG-ing, growers place horizontal chicken wire or some other netting at the level of the plant canopy and then train the branches to fit under the netting, while aiming the growing shoots to fill in the open holes in the wire. This increases your canopy at optimal light levels and certainly produces bigger yields when done properly. However, it's something that's usually done late in the vegetative stage or early in the flowering stage, so you may have missed the window to do it right.

Other growers use stakes, which is what I assume you mean by "canes." The stakes must be securely fastened so that they don't fall down due to the weight

of the buds, and the branches must also be securely attached to the stakes. Some people dig stakes right down into the soil, but you should be careful not to damage any roots this way. I've even seen situations where the growers have secured lines to their light reflectors or ceiling and then tied the plant tops to them, but that seems unnecessarily complicated and unwieldy to me.

The important thing to note is that any branches that hang way down or are shadowed by other plant growth will not fill out to their full potential, and your yield will certainly suffer. Standing up branches by using ScrOG or any other effective trellising technique can increase your harvest exponentially, so get on it!

Danko Tip: Streetlights or security floodlights near your outdoor plants can interfere with their dark cycle. Always shield plants from nighttime illumination.



Utilizing a greenhouse extends your growing season significantly.

SUBJECT: **Water Trouble**

FROM: **Kase Dismissed**

🌱 I prepared your Magic Mix exactly like the directions said, but it's been puddling and doesn't seem to get wet when the water's added. What gives? If your fix is putting soap in the water, what's the exact mix? My soil is staying bone dry.

Dear Kase,
When a soil mix has been dry for a long period of time, it can become "hydrophobic," meaning the mix will not absorb water. Sometimes it looks like the soil mix just floats on top of any water you try to add. One option is to soak the bucket by bottom-watering it: Simply

fill the container that you use to catch the water coming from the bottom of your bucket and let it sit for an hour or so while the bucket slowly absorbs the water from below.

Another option, as you mentioned, is to add a drop of natural dishwashing liquid to a gallon of water, stir it in and then water your plants from above. The soap will "soften" the water, allowing it to be better absorbed by your soil by breaking its surface tension. Try not to let your mix dry out completely between waterings; just the top inch or two should be totally dry before you decide to add more nutrient solution. Repotting your plant into a larger container can help as well.

SUBJECT: **Caterpillar Damage**

FROM: **Aaron G.P.**

🌱 I've been a fan since about early May, and I just had my first summer harvest. Toward the end of my flowering cycle and into my cutting/drying, I was invaded by a colony of caterpillars. I noticed droppings and "tunnels" in the nugs of weed that I've been tossing out. While they were drying, it seems that the caterpillars all climbed down to seek a more suitable habitat. Is this weed okay to smoke, or to turn into concentrates or edibles? And how do I prevent this the next time?

I'm also craving to grow some more. I live in the Bay Area, and the winter is coming up. I was wondering if I would be able to get a greenhouse and use some T5 fixtures at night for supplemental lighting?

Dear Aaron,
Caterpillars can do some serious damage to outdoor cannabis plants. The easiest thing you can do is what you're already doing: plucking off any visible caterpillars and removing any of the damage they've caused. Many times, caterpillar droppings and tunnels will leave behind molds and bud rot that will quickly spread throughout your plants. If this is the case, I would discard your harvest and try again.

In the future, spray leaves with neem oil as a preventative at least once every two weeks. This will discourage caterpillars, as well as many other unwanted pests. Some growers like to keep chickens among their plants or encourage other birds to visit their gardens, since they'll eat caterpillars and other pests without doing any damage to growing plants. There are also products containing Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) that you can use to kill caterpillars. Bt is a bacteria that works as an insecticide without harming the beneficial insects we like having around.

As for the greenhouse, you can certainly get one and supplement with T5 fluorescent lighting at night. This is a great way to get the best of both worlds. You can utilize the free sunshine from outdoor growing as well the ability to control your environment that you get when growing indoors.

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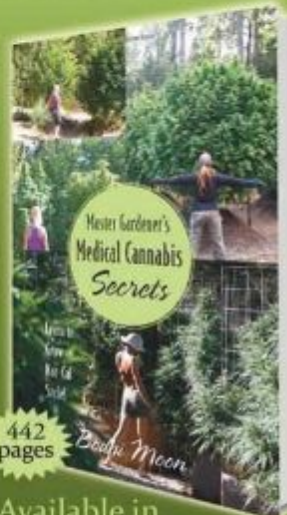
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Danko Tip: Streetlights or security floodlights near your outdoor plants can interfere with their dark cycle. Always shield plants from nighttime illumination.

SUBJECT: **Royal Flush**

FROM: **Justin in Southern Oregon**

🌱 I know you're supposed to flush your plants with plain water for the last two weeks or so of the flowering stage to make sure you get rid of all those built-up salts, but I've also heard people say the proper way to flush is to use 5 gallons of water for every gallon of soil. So with a 2-gallon pot, I'm supposed to flush with 10 gallons of water? That seems like overkill, and wouldn't it drown the roots and/or cause mold issues with the bud? Also, is it a good idea to flush at least once throughout the middle of the grow as well?

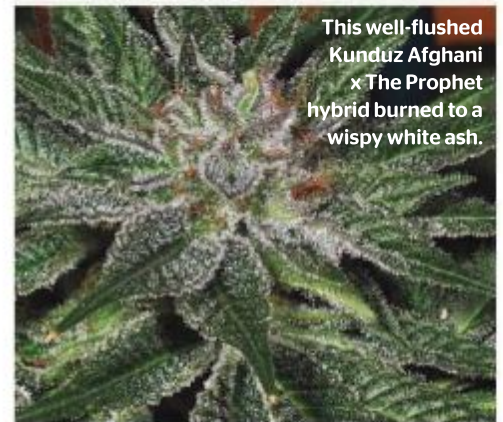
Dear Justin,
I recommend flushing with double the volume of your container—five times seems excessive and indeed like overkill. A 5-gallon container should be flushed with about 10 gallons of water, but a good rule of thumb is to watch how much water actually comes out the bottom of your container and then to test its pH and ppm after it leaches through your soil. This will give you a better idea of how waterlogged your plants may be and also how many salts and minerals you're removing.

Flushing in the middle of a grow is only advised if you see signs of nutrient buildup, such as leaf tips that look burned and start to crinkle from the tip down. This is always a sure sign that you've overfertilized, which means a good flushing is in order. After that, water your plants with a mild nutrient solution, and always try to err on the side of caution when feeding. Keep in mind that the nutrient companies want you to use up their products more quickly so that you'll buy more. I recommend feeding at about half the strength that most nutrient bottles advise.

SUBJECT: **Early Flower**

FROM: **Andrew P.**

🌱 In an indoor grow, what do you think is the earliest that I could flower a plant? Is it more based on the plant's height or age, or both? My question is for plants grown from either feminized or regular seeds (not auto-flowering strains).



This well-flushed Kunduz Afghani x The Prophet hybrid burned to a wispy white ash.

Dear Andrew,

A plant will flower based solely on how much light you give it per day. Even a just-rooted cutting or a seedling that has only recently emerged from the soil can be forced to flower under 12 hours of light per day. The problem is, without much of a root system to sustain growth and aid in cell development, the yield from these plants will be minuscule. I usually recommend at least a two-week period of vegetative growth (under 18 hours of light per day) before forcing plants into flowering. The longer the vegetative period, the more extensive the root system can grow and the bigger the plants will get, meaning a much larger harvest in the end.

SUBJECT: **Where's the Dirt?**

FROM: **Roney**

🌱 When it comes to soil and soil mixes, where can I buy all the stuff you talk about? I'm just starting out, so I'm going to do a lot of research first. I find marijuana very amazing in that I can grow something to make me more creative (and high). I really want to grow some good-tasting bud, but here in BC all I've ever smoked is dirt weed, so any info on beginning in this field would be great. In the end, I'd like to become a master grower.

Dear Roney,

Most of the soil mixes I recommend can be purchased from a good hardware store that specializes in plants and horticulture in general. Big stores such as Home Depot have some of the ingredients, but not all. Ideally, if you can find any hydroponics stores in your area, they tend to have everything you'll need,



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including the many useful organic supplements and additives.

Keep in mind that everything you mix into your soil will be used up within about a month of regular waterings. Almost every mix you use will eventually need to be supplemented with nutrient solutions that you'll add yourself as your plants are growing. The easiest thing you can do is to purchase a bale of Pro-Mix, add some worm castings and pH-balanced water, and fill up some 5-gallon buckets. Water your plants with plain water for a couple of weeks and add a mild, nitrogen-heavy nutrient once you see the leaves just barely start to turn lighter green (but before they begin to yellow). Mild feedings alternating with plain water from then on will work fine, unless you see signs of any deficiencies. Once you're well into the flowering period, add nutrients higher in phosphorous and potassium. And be sure to flush the plants with plain water for the last two weeks before harvest.



Webbing is a sign of severe spider mite infestation.

Take clones from motherplants during their vegetative stage of growth.

SUBJECT: **Re-Vegging Plants**

FROM **Curious Bones**

🌱 I'm excited to be listening to Free Weed every week. I am listening to episode #46 right now, and my question relates specifically to your interview with Subcool and MzJill and their regular seeds.

I use the same basic three-tier FloraLight table with T5s for starting my weed as I use for starting my vegetables. I plan to grow some Third Dimension or Cheese Quake (as well as some feminized DNA Kushberry) next year, and I was hoping there's a safe way to identify the males and kill them instead of waiting until the plants start to flower outdoors.

Is it safe to switch the plants to a 12/12 light schedule, identify the males and then switch to "re-vegging/regreening"? (DJ Short and you mentioned this term briefly in episode #43.)

Dear Curious,



Thanks for your kind words about our podcast. It's been both fun and challenging to put it out on a weekly basis, but it's also very rewarding to hear from listeners who improved their grow situations or started on the road to growing their own because of the show.

I don't recommend switching your plants to 12/12 in order to determine their sex and then re-vegging them. Instead, take a cutting of each plant, root it, and then flower the rooted cuttings to determine which plants are male, then get rid of them prior to flowering. So to answer your question, while the method you propose is "safe" to do, it's also ill-advised (as Walt "Clyde" Frazier would say). 🌱



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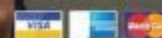
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I feel like every time you answer a question, I can think of a million counterexamples that suggest the research is wrong. What gives?

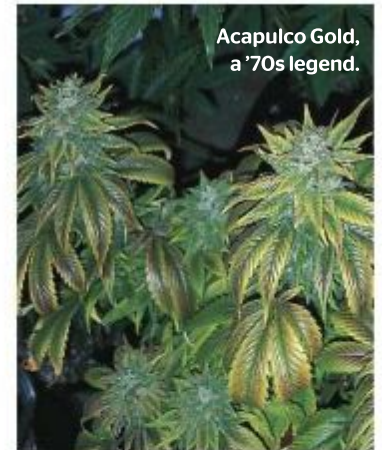
Eve Wonder

Hello Eve,
We all tend to interpret events in ways that are consistent with our beliefs. This confirmation bias is hard to fight: I can never remember meeting a friendly prohibitionist or a jerk who supports cannabis-law reform. My own attitudes alter my perceptions and memory, and interpreting research poses the same problem. People who believe the “gateway theory” disregard every person who has used the plant without incident; instead, they emphasize the lone guy who ended up in trouble. Data simply won’t convince them. But whenever research results seem untenable, I have to ask myself if I might be interpreting all of my previous experience through a lens of bias.

I could swear that today’s stuff is cheaper and stronger than in my Acapulco Gold days. Is it true, or am I just getting old?

Methuselah Myers

Hi Methuselah,
First, we’re *all* getting older. Having said that, I hate feeding the scare tactics of the “Potent Pot Police,” but cannabis these days is both stronger and cheaper, despite all of the dollars sunk into our country’s failed War on Drugs. Since 1990, the potency is about 60 percent higher, and inflation-adjusted prices are about 80 percent lower.



Acapulco Gold, a '70s legend.

Cannabis these days is both stronger and cheaper, despite all of the dollars sunk into our country’s failed War on Drugs.

I love hemp-seed tea. Could I accidentally test positive for pot?

CC Driver

Dear CC,
Hemp-seed tea was fine in the old days, assuming you’re not getting THC anywhere else. But several states now make it illegal to drive with *any* detectable levels of THC. And how’s this for a scary stat: Seven out of 20 people who drank hemp-seed tea in a Detroit laboratory tested (barely) positive—which means you could, too. Obviously, urine screens do nothing to detect impairment. In addition, states with these intolerant laws don’t have lower rates of traffic fatalities than states with better ordinances. 🌿

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents’ Guide to Marijuana.

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Amsterdam is a magical place for a hashish connoisseur like myself—a place where dreams are created and achieved.

After winding through narrow streets and over canals, catching whiffs of *stroopwafels* and hashish in the air as I go, I find my way to the Roest—the warehouse venue for the 26th Annual Cannabis Cup. Upon entering the expo, I'm immediately star-struck by the number of cannabis legends in attendance—people I've read and heard about since I was 15 years old. There's Soma of Soma's Sacred Seeds, known for his award-winning Amnesia Haze, NYC Diesel and Soma Jelly—a mixture of non-solvent hash and oil. There's Milo from Big Buddha Seeds, creator of the Big Buddha Cheese. Also onsite are grow guru Jorge Cervantes, Mila the Hash Queen, and the infamous Bubbleman. Don and Aaron of DNA Genetics had a large presence, bringing the heat with their Banana OG solvent-free, as did Arjan and Franco of Green House Seeds with their Flowerbomb concentrates. Then there's Ben Dronkers, owner of Sensi Seeds, who stirred up the crowd by passing out free weed onstage during his seminar and then ejecting the security guard who tried to intervene.

My next stop is the Dab-a-Doo party at Mila's Polinator shop—a one-night

Concentrating at the Cup

A hashmaker's adventures in Amsterdam. *By Selecta Nikka T*



Mila's hash panel (left to right): Uruguayan activist Juan, Mila herself, hashmaker El Gato, Dougie from Hitman Glass and Nikka T.

mini-contest for concentrates sponsored by Polinator and Hitman Glass. Immediately upon entering, I'm handed a "goodie bag" containing some incredible entries. Inside, Mila introduces me to extract artists from around the world. I love Mila—she is *the* hash-connoisseur connector, making links globally for decades. First I meet El Gato, with his oily black Colombian "meat-grinder" hash (of which I was lucky enough to get a nice-size piece). Next comes someone I've wanted to meet since I first visited Amsterdam: Gino, the purveyor of one of my favorite strains, the Stella Blue. Originally created in Humboldt County, but made popular here by the Anyday coffeeshop in the mid-2000s, Stella Blue is the source of the Master Blaster Ice-o-lator hash. That night, the winners are announced at coffeeshop Prix d'Ami, with Mila, myself, and Dougie from Hitman at the helm and on the microphone.

The following night is the 11th annual invite-only "Legends of Hashish" dinner, and it turns out to be

just that: legendary. I'm extremely honored to be invited to this esteemed event, let alone allowed to compete and dine with some of the world's best hashish makers, including Bubbleman, Sam the Skunkman and Robert Connell Clarke, author of *Hashish!*. At the cloudy, secret location, we're greeted by the welcoming yet protective owner of the establishment—and then into the trichome-filled abyss we go. The rest must be left to your imagination ... all I'll say is that I got to try some of the best dry-sieved cannabis concentrates in my life.

After a long week spent judging, DJing at multiple events, and sampling the best hash and extracts that Amsterdam has to offer, the Cannabis Cup awards ceremony finally arrives. Inside the Melkweg, I light a hash spliff and disappear into the crowd to enjoy the show. As the night draws to a close, I find that I'm already fantasizing about the epic adventures I'll have at next year's Cup. Hope to see you there! ✨

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Gonzo For Life

Celebrating the late, great Hunter Thompson on his birthday with some drinks and ink in New York.

A few years ago, I wrote about a symposium called “Sex, Dope and Cheap Thrills,” held at a bar in New York City and dedicated to the life and legacy of Hunter S. Thompson (Almost Infamous, Dec. ’11). The event featured a panel of speakers that included our associate publisher Rick Cusick, gun enthusiast Darren Leung and *Penthouse* Pet Valentina Vaughn, and it was organized by two friends of mine—former *HT* editor Eric Danville and former *Penthouse* promotions director Lainie Speiser. Last July, during the week of Hunter’s birthday, the pair revived that tribute and invited me to participate.

Arriving at the East Village bar 2A, I headed upstairs to greet Eric and Lainie, who introduced me to my fellow participants: adult-film star Brittany Andrews, actor/writer Jeffrey Emerson and writer Robert Rosen. After an introduction by Danville, each guest did a reading from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. First came Emerson, who read from Chapter 12—the passage where Hunter confronts a deranged patrolman on Highway 61. Next up was Brittany, who read the passage in which Hunter’s partner Dr. Gonzo threatens his life in the hotel room while tripping balls. As each guest read, a larger-than-life live feed of their performance (sans sound) was projected onto the brick building across the street—a badass broadcast rigged up by the bar’s manager. There was even a round of Thompson trivia, with a prize pack given out to the winner. When it was my turn to take the mic, I started with a toast.

“I’d like to begin with a very short quote that I found ... so I would like everyone to raise their glass while I read a toast that Hunter himself wrote. It’s from *The Proud Highway: Saga of a Desperate Southern Gentleman*, and it goes:

‘Let us toast to animal pleasures,

to escapism, to rain on the roof and instant coffee, to unemployment insurance and library cards, to absinthe and good-hearted landlords, to music and warm bodies and contraceptives ... and to the ‘good life,’ whatever it is and wherever it happens to be.”

Rather than having me do a reading, Eric opted instead to cap the night off with an interview about Hunter, drugs and other sordid topics. I discussed my introduction to his work by former *HT* scribe Chris “Pot Star” Eudaley, my love for Terry Gilliam’s adaptation of *Fear and Loathing*, and my homage to Hunter in *High Times* entitled “Beer & Bloating on the Campaign Trail 2008,” in which I travelled across the country on a mock presidential run (on Hunter’s former Freak Power Party ticket) to promote NORML’s Smoke the Vote campaign (Almost

Infamous, Nov.–Dec. ’08). It was an awesome evening—so much so that, the next day, I was inspired to finally do something I’d been contemplating for a long time: I phoned my friend Kevin Fox down in Philly and asked if he’d drive up the following weekend to pay me a very special visit.

I was introduced to Kevin by my wife at Amsterdam’s Coffeeshop Amnesia during the 2011 Cannabis Cup. He was a CS Travel customer, as well as a big fan of both Hunter’s and mine. He also happens to be a tattoo artist and had offered to work on me for free. Now, sitting in my living room over a few dabs and a six-pack of Flying Dog Ale (which is brewed in Hunter’s hometown of Woody Creek by his friend George Stranahan, and whose packaging features artwork by Thompson’s famed collaborator

Ralph Steadman), Fox proceeded to emblazon the infamous “Gonzo” dagger logo onto my calf in glorious, eternal black-and-red ink. Now this tattooed tribute serves as a proud proclamation of my allegiance to Hunter’s literary legacy: I’m gonzo for life, baby. ✨



Clockwise: Danville interviews Bobby; adult actress Brittany Andrews; a tribute to the master; tattoo artist Kevin Fox shows off his work.

Watch video from the event at: hightimes.com/gonzo4life



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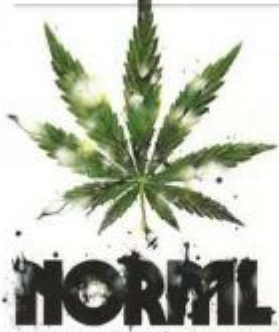
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Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

A majority of Americans support legalizing marijuana.



Americans are sick and tired of pot prohibition. *Period.* Last century’s prohibition of alcohol, which lasted a mere 13 years, is often referred to as the “Great Failed Social Experiment”—which begs the question: What better words can possibly describe cannabis prohibition, the 77-year-old public-policy disaster that has resulted in over 26 million arrests? And while we’re discussing our ever-increasing disgust with prohibition and the millions of dollars wasted, what have programs like DARE and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America ever done to reduce cannabis consumption?

The American public—from former hippies turned aging boomer businessmen to social-media-obsessed teenagers—has

finally had its fill with eight decades of anti-pot nitwittery. It’s hard not to be reminded of Frank P. Adams’s whimsical poem, published in 1930 in the now-defunct *New York World*, regarding Prohibition-era politicians continuing to embrace a ban on alcohol despite the fact that the public had soured on it:

*Prohibition is an awful flop.
We like it.
It can't stop what it's meant to stop.
We like it.
It's left a trail of graft and slime,
It don't prohibit worth a dime,
It's filled our land with vice and crime,
Nevertheless, we're for it.*

Recent Gallup polling in October indicated a record level of support for

legalizing cannabis, now at 58 percent nationwide. Americans clearly want to put cannabis prohibition in the country’s rearview mirror. Demographers from the major polling outfits have been stunned by the dramatic 10 percent increase in public support for legalizing marijuana in less than a calendar year. They think it’s “proof positive” that a strong majority of the American public has likely moved on *forever* in its opposition to the current War on Weed.

Since 2010, the change in public opinion in favor of legalization has occurred so rapidly that a rare thing seems to have happened in the world of political prognostication: *open wonder!*

Nate Silver, formerly of the *New York Times*, is now a well-regarded number-cruncher for ESPN. But he appears to have been incorrect in his predictive modeling of three years ago. Back then, Silver posited that by 2021, 60 percent of the American public would come to support cannabis legalization. In the 2014 and '16 elections, we can logically expect to see more states join Colorado and Washington in passing legalization initiatives; already Alaska, California, Maine, Massachusetts and Oregon are poised to do just that. At this current rate of explosive change, by 2021, over 70 percent of the American public will want to see cannabis legalized.

Now that’s the definition of political power. Let’s use it! 🌿

FREEDOM FIGHTER

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Booker for Buds

Can the next US senator from New Jersey start a “national conversation” on decriminalization?

It’s rare to find candidates for national office who are willing to embrace marijuana-law reform. But Cory Booker, the former mayor of Newark, recently won New Jersey’s special election for a seat in the US Senate. From the beginning of his campaign, he ran on a strong platform of

criminal-justice reform and was open about his support for medical marijuana as well as decriminalization.

In an interview with the *Huffington Post*, Booker stated: “Medical marijuana—heck, yes! I do not understand that there are drugs that are more toxic, more dangerous and more challenging in drugstores around my state,



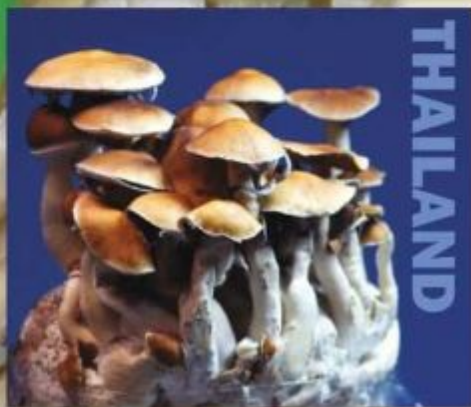
yet we single out this one drug and we say you can’t even have it in a medical fashion.” Booker also explained that he wanted to take these reforms beyond the medical arena. “We have seen so much of our national treasure being spent in the national Drug War,” he observed, “and in my opinion, have turned human life into incarceration, trapping [people] into poverty.”

Booker called for a national conversation on decriminalization and stated that he would like to be the one leading the charge. So far, he seems to be making good on his promise: On his first visit to DC after the election, he broached the topic of criminal-justice reform with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Attorney General Eric Holder. “It was the first issue I brought up with the leader,” Booker said.

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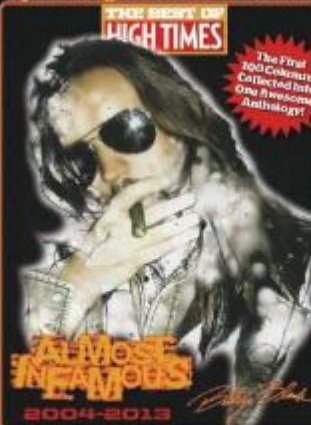
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FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Trichome Challenge

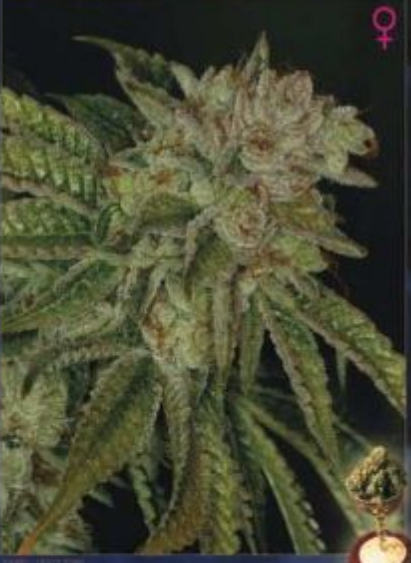
 Here's a pic of my current GDP x Crazytrain pheno grown outdoors in NorCal. I crossed them a few years ago and they are some of my favorite smoke! Check out my art work at cargocollective.com/shanewaller Salvador Wali



PREMIER INDICAS

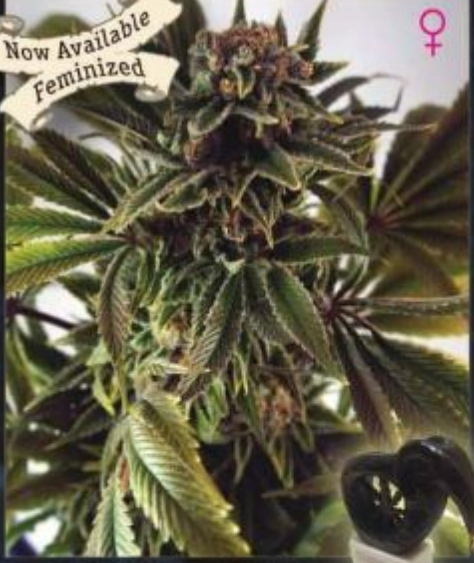
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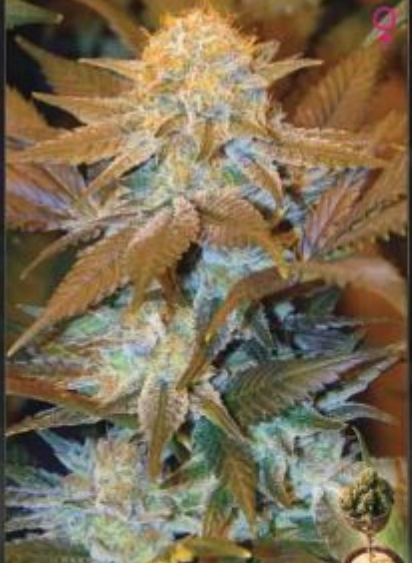
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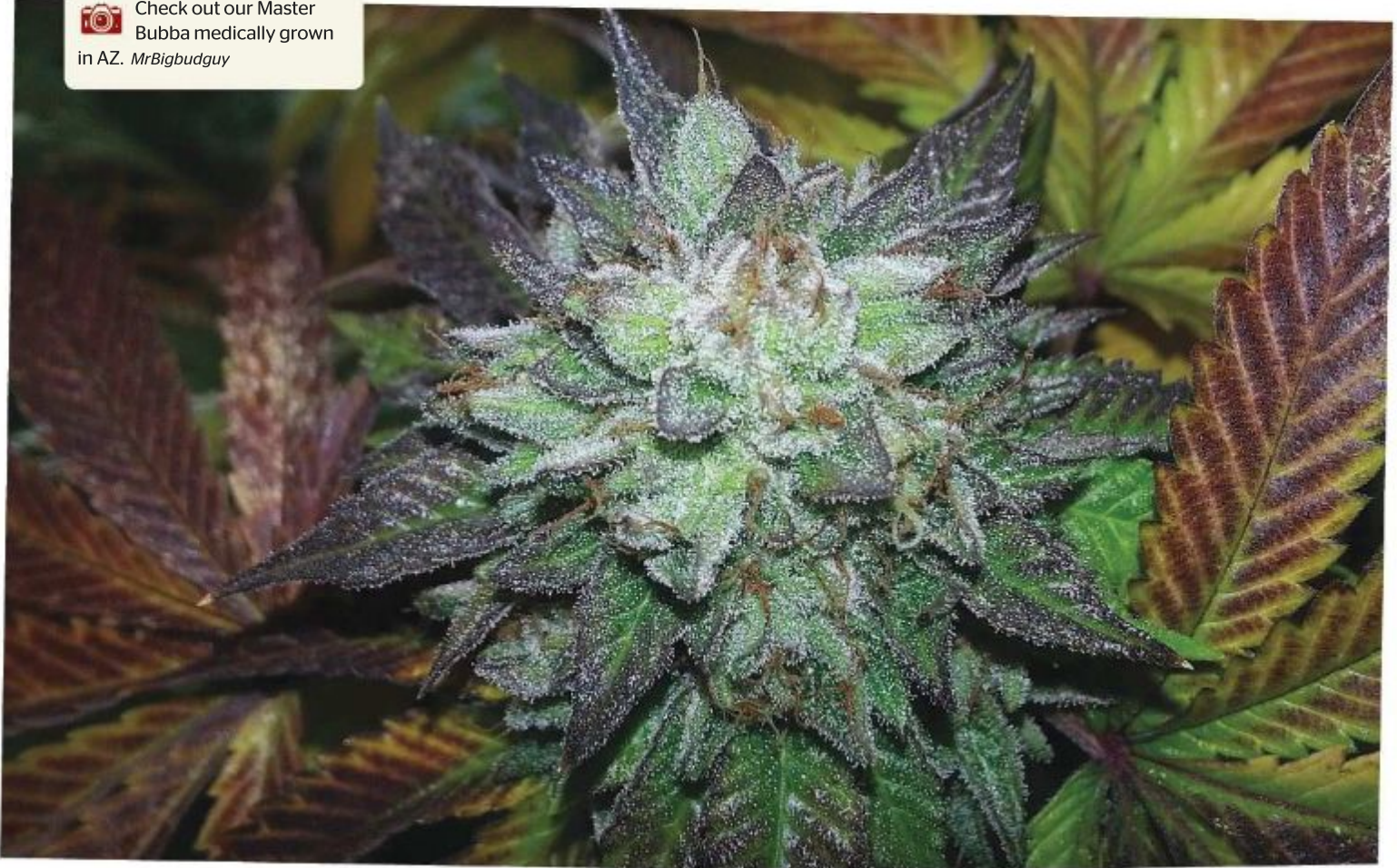
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CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH


Zona Cola

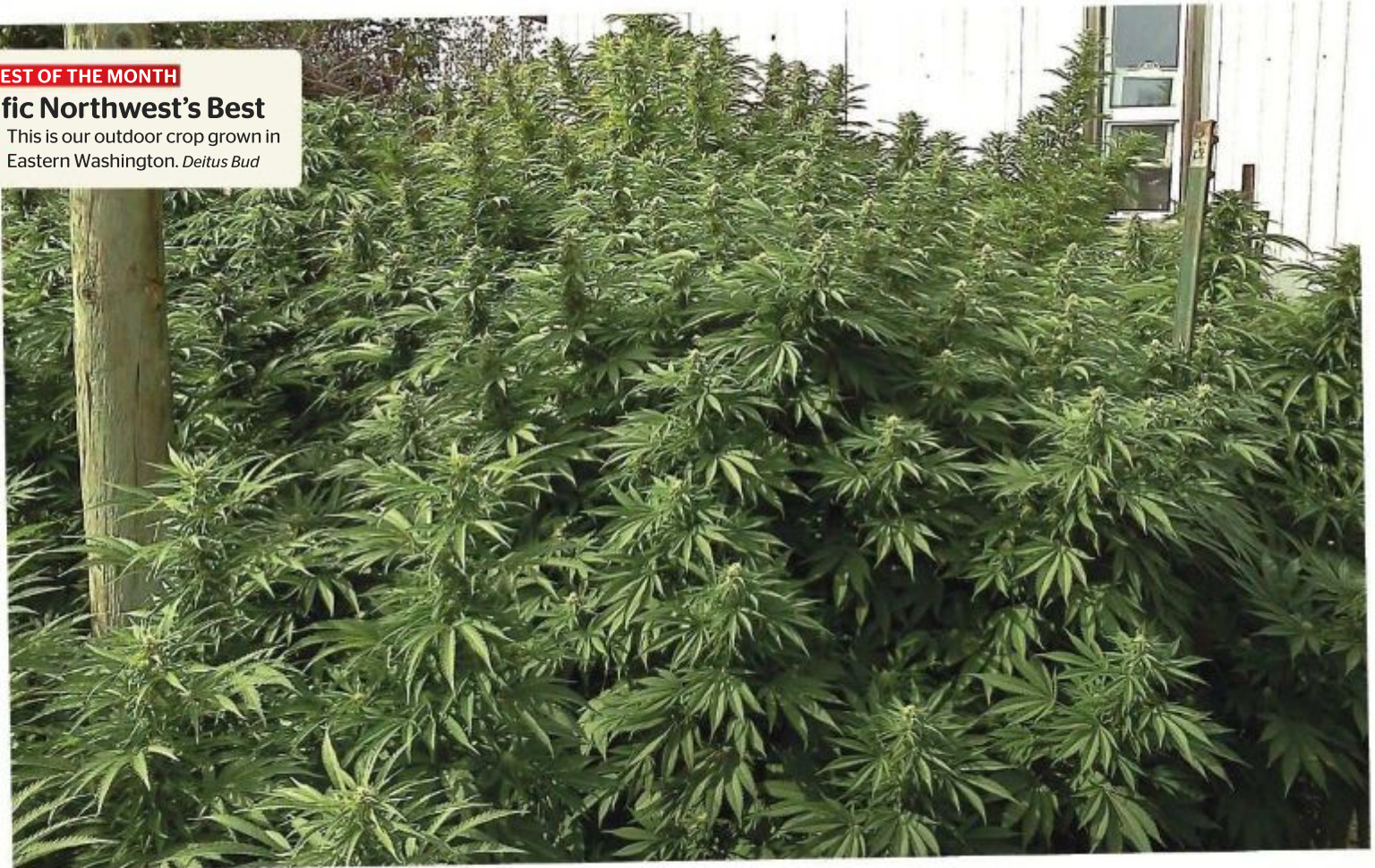
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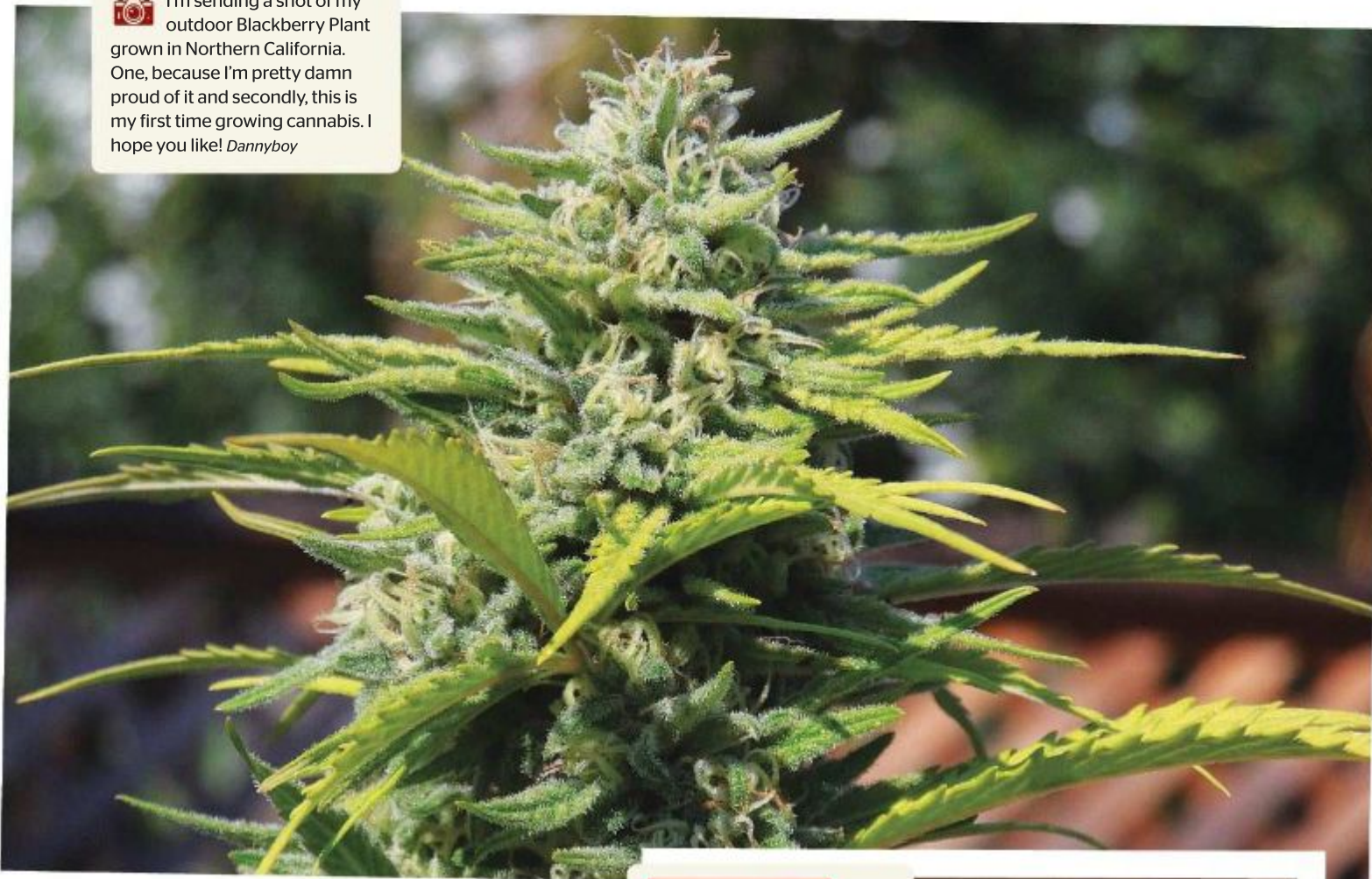
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GARDEN OF THE MONTH


Good Day Sunshine

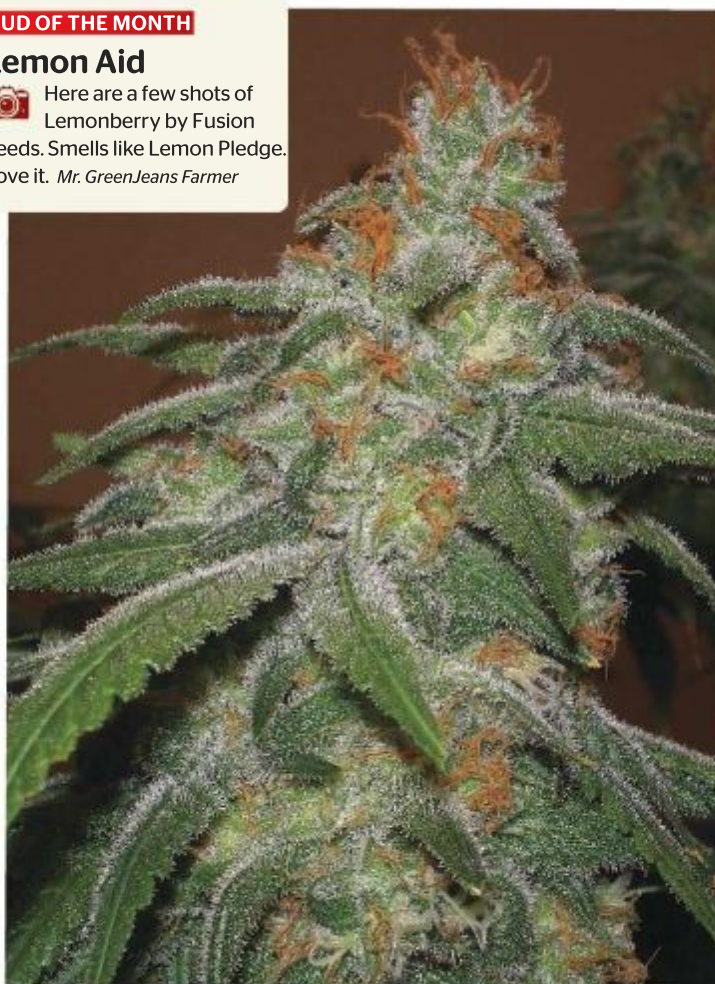
 I'm sending a shot of my outdoor Blackberry Plant grown in Northern California. One, because I'm pretty damn proud of it and secondly, this is my first time growing cannabis. I hope you like! *Dannyboy*



BUD OF THE MONTH


Lemon Aid

 Here are a few shots of Lemonberry by Fusion Seeds. Smells like Lemon Pledge. Love it. *Mr. GreenJeans Farmer*



GROWER OF THE MONTH

High Five

 Hope you guys at *High Times* enjoy my garden! *Krazie Vielle*

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HIGH TIMES

We reveal the most potent strains from 2013.



► The Earth's Strongest Strains of 2013

Nico Escondido breaks down the strongest strains of the past year as tested by our partner labs at five High Times Cannabis Cups in five different cities in 2013, including the first-ever U.S. Cannabis Cups in Denver and Seattle. As *High Times* celebrates its 40th anniversary, we'll also list the Top 40 highest THC strains tested at High Times Cannabis Cups since we began lab testing entries in 2010!

► How to Save Your Garden: Dust, Aphids and Tobacco Mosaic Virus

Our tips on spotting and solving three common growroom problems to avoid setbacks in your garden.

► Happy New Year from Colorado!

History was made on January 1st, 2014. Adults in Colorado are now able to walk into a store and purchase recreational cannabis. Editorial director Dan Skye began his new year high in the Rockies!

► The Stossel Perspective

He's the *New York Times* bestselling author and host of *Stossel* on the Fox Business Network. John Stossel sits down to discuss his libertarian views and his disdain for government.

► Master Blasters

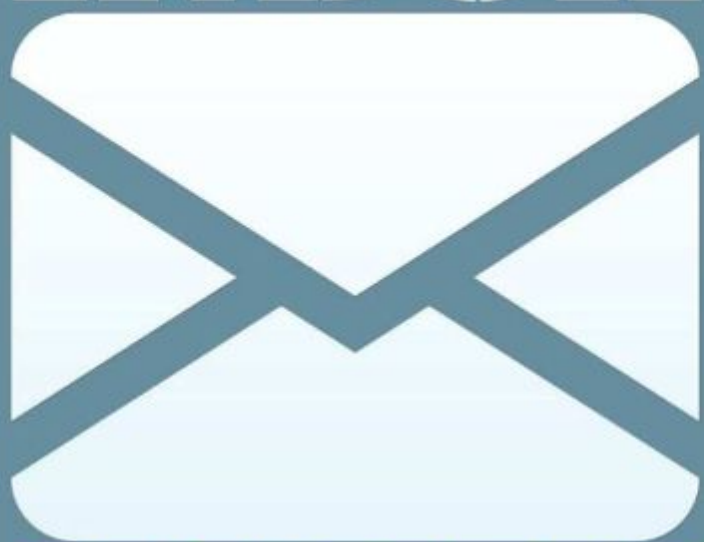
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DAN SKYE

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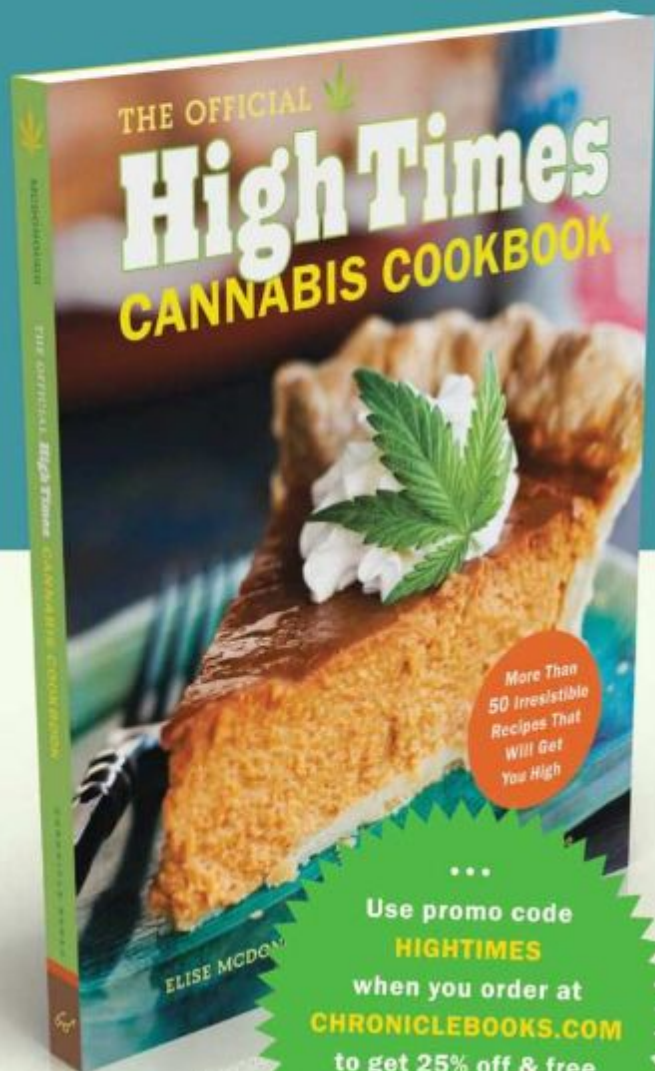
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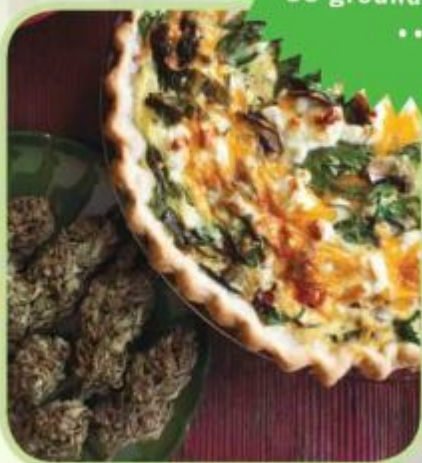
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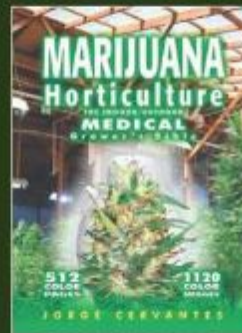


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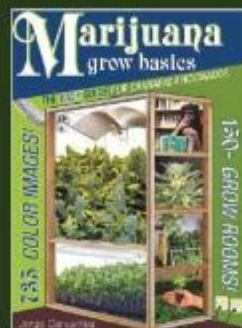
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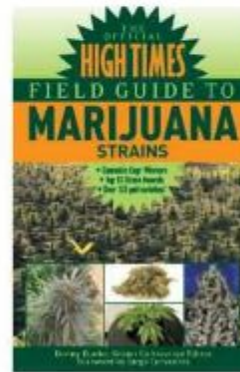


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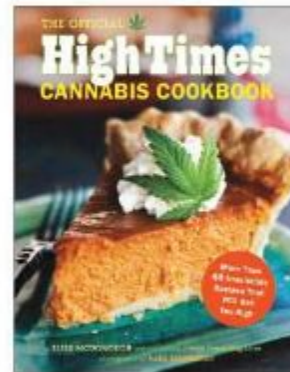


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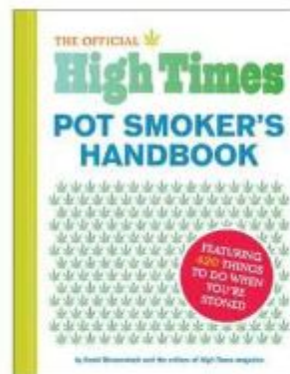
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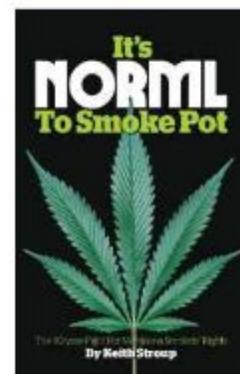
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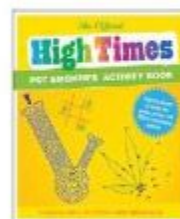
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LEGALIZED MARIJUANA.**



HELP US FREE THE OTHER

**48
STATES**

**TOGETHER,
WE WILL LEGALIZE MARIJUANA.**

JOIN TODAY @ NORML.ORG

The POT40

Submit your ideas by email to: pot40@hightimes.com

1 **Join NORMAL NOW!**

2 **HAPPY 420!**

3 **FREE WEED**

4 **GREEN WATER**

5 **Baby Dabs**

6 **Fuck Spider Mites**

7 **TRAFFIC**
WELCOME TO THE CANTEN
WIN WOOD • CAPALDI • MASON • WOOD
DITCH • KWARD • BASH • GORDON

8 **Magic Flight Launch Box**

9 **Get HIGH at the U.S. Cannabis Cup in Denver**

10 **LONG LIVE GONZO**
ALL THE FLORIDA BROS SAY SO!
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11 **Take a bite out of crime... Legalize WEED**

12 **April Showers Bring May Flowers**

13 **GROW YOUR OWN GORGEOUS GANJA!**

14 **RESCHEDULE NOW!**

15 **Jens Music Stash**
hightimes.com/thebest

16 **Need Oil**

17 **Peter Tosh Live & Dangerous Boston 1976**

18 **OG KUSH**
OUR FAVORITE bush!!

19 **This coupon is good for one Free bag of Weed**
FREE Bag of Weed
THE OWNER OF THIS COUPON IS ENTITLED TO A FREE BAG OF WEED

20 **"Let me Smoke yo Stanky cookies.."**

21 **All the SALSAS**

22 **DISCO DOGG**

23 **It's not Personal, it's business. But really it's personal.**

24 **Marijuana... my, my, my Girl you know you one Sweet Lady**

25 **A Mile Highweed!**

26 **Men, Grow a Moustache today! (Women Love 'em Subliminally...)**

27 **prankdab.com**
For all your oil porn needs

28 **Hail Satan!**

29 **BONGWITTERS!**
Strain Training

30 **Don't PASSOVER me with the Joint!**

31 **Arlo Guthrie**
I had two Bowls for Breakfast, one was cereal

32 **Jimmy Page!**
Truly a Guitar Wizard

33 **It's not Personal, it's business. But really it's personal.**

34 **Don't do drugs just smoke Weed!**

35 **Wemp!**
Grow your own pants!

36 **Rhianna**

37 **Can you Pass the Acid Test?**

38 **BROOKLYN BOWL**
COMING SOON
LAS VEGAS

39 **COMING SOON**

40 **BROOKLYN BOWL**
LAS VEGAS

What would you like to see on the Pot 40? Write your ideas on this ballot and mail to:

HIGH TIMES
Pot 40
250 West 57th Street, Suite 920
New York City, NY 10107

[Empty ballot box for writing ideas]

2ND ANNUAL

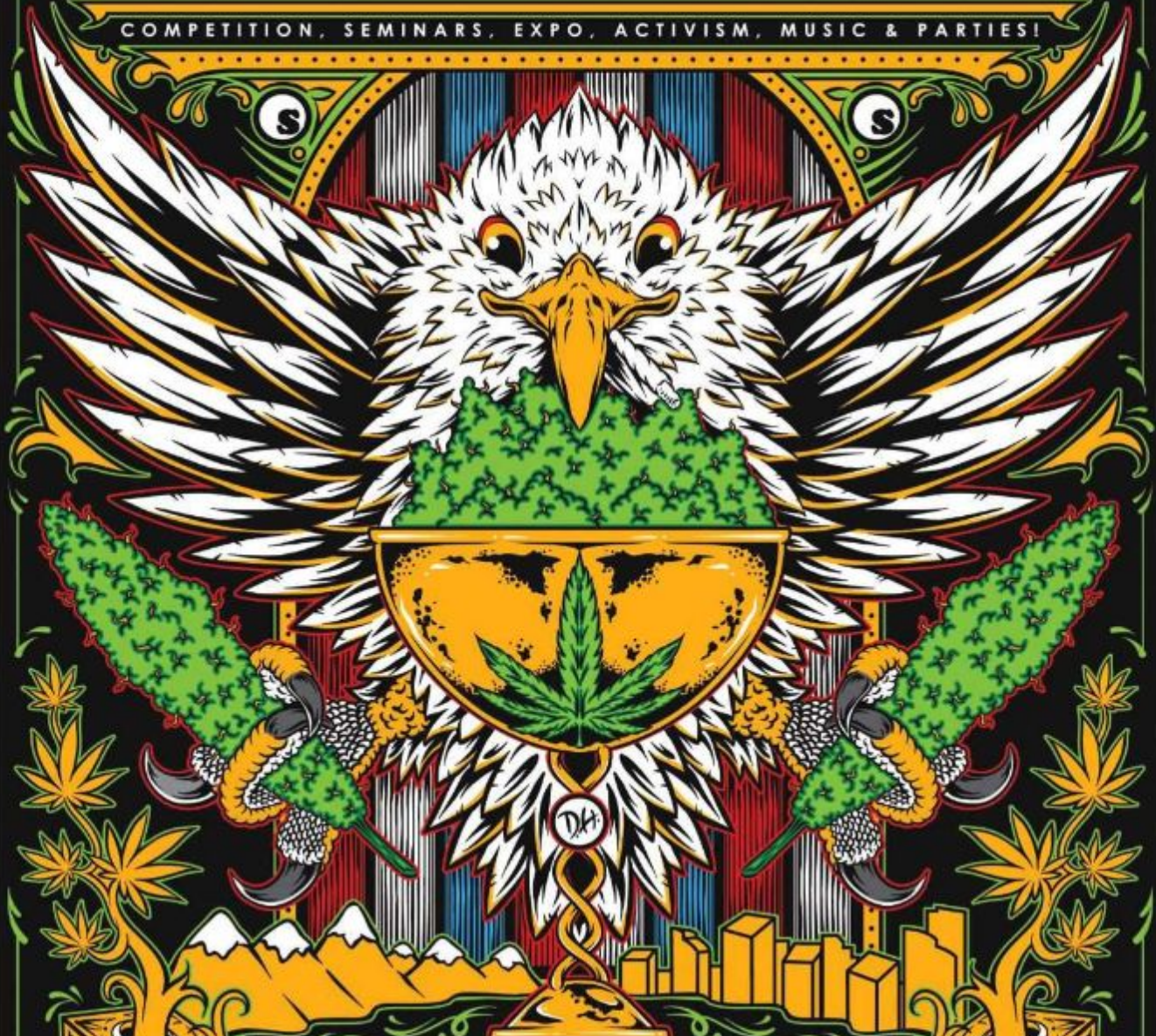
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| D'ble Skunk Harmony x Skunk . \$ 80. | Malawi Gols x Thai \$ 150. |
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